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Assembly Proceedings

Official Report

Bengal Legislative Assembly

First Session, 1947

The 3rd, 6th, 7th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 17th, 18th,
24th, 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th February, 1947

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1947

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

His Excellency Sir FREDERICK JOHN BURROWS, G.C.I.E.

OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

(1) The Hon'ble Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY, Minister in charge of the Chief Minister's Department and of the Home Department except the Jails Branch thereof.

(2) The Hon'ble Mr. MAHMMED ALI, Minister in charge of the Finance Department and of the Department of Health and Local Self-Government.

(3) The Hon'ble Mr. SAID MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN, Minister in charge of the Education Department.

(4) The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL HOSSAIN, Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries.

(5) The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN, Minister in charge of the Department of Civil Supplies.

(6) The Hon'ble Mr. ABUL FAZAL MOHAMMED ABDUR RAHMAN, Minister in charge of the Department of Co-operation, Credit and

(7) The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED, Minister in charge of the Department of Commerce, Labour and Industries.

(8) The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA, C.I.E., M.B.E., Minister in charge of the Department of Irrigation and Waterways.

(9) The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN RAY, Minister in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Departments.

(10) The Hon'ble Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN, Minister in charge of the Department of Land and Land Revenue and the Jails Branch of the Home Department.

(11) The Hon'ble Mr. DWARKA NATH BARORI, Minister in charge of the Department of Works and Buildings.

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SPEAKER.

The Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN.

DEPUTY SPEAKER.

TAFAZZAL ALI, ESQ., *Advocate.*

SECRETARY.

K. ALI AFZAL, ESQ., BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

AJITA RANJAN MUKHERJEA, ESQ., M.SC., B.L.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

A

Abdul Ahad, Dr. [Satkhira.]
*Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md. [Narayanganj East.]
Abdul Aziz Munshi, Mr. [Madaripur East.]
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza. [Tangail West.]
Abdul Hai, Maulana. [Noakhali South.]
Abdul Hakim Mia, Mr. [Noakhali West.]
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Mr. Md. [Munshiganj.]
Abdul Halim, Mr. Molla Mohammad. [Nadia West.]
Abdul Hamid, Mr. [Rajshahi South.]
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M. [Pabna West.]
Abdul Hannan, Mr. [Meherpur.]
*Abdul Karim, Mr. [Jamalpur North.]
*Abdul Khaliq, Maulvi. [Dacca South Central.]
Abdul Mannan, Mr. Fakir. [Dacca North Central.]
Abdul Momin, Mr. [Tippera Central.]
Abdullahel Baqui, Maulana Md. [Dinajpur Central East.]
Abdur Rahman, The Hon'ble Mr. A. F. M. [24-Parganas North-East.]
Abdur Rahman Khan (*alias* Nuru Mia), Mr. [Patuakhali North.]
Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr. [Serajgunge South.]
Abdur Rashid Khondkar, Maulana. [Serajgunge Central.]
Abdur Rauf, Mr. Syed. [Jessore East.]
Abdus Sabur Khan, Mr. [Khulna.]
Abdus Salam, Mr. Md. [Matlabbazar.]

*Parliamentary Secretary.

Abidur Reza Choudhury, Maulvi. [Chandpur West.]
Abul Hashem, Mr. [Burdwan.]
Abul Kalam Shamsuddin, Mr. [Mymensingh West.]
Abul Masud, Mr. Kazi. [Nator.]
Abul Quasem, Mr. [Hooghly.]
Acharjee, Mr. Shitangshu Kanta. [Dacca Landholders.]
Adhikari, Mr. Amulya Chandra. [Mymensingh East.]
Ahammad Ali Mir, Mr. [Jamalpur-*cum*-Muktagacha.]
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Mr. [Gualundo.]
Ahmed Hosain, The Hon'ble Mr. [Gaibandha South.]
Ahmed Kabir Chowdhury, Mr. [Chittagong South.]
Akbar Ali, Maulvi. [Netrokona North.]
Ali Ahmed Chowdhury, Mr. [Chittagong South Central.]
Ali Ahmed Khan, Mr. [Brahmanbaria South.]
Anwara Khatun, Mrs. [Dacca (Muhammadan).]
Ariff Chaudhury (*alias* Dhanu Mia), Mr. Md. [Bakargunge North.]
Asan Ali Muktear, Mr. [Netrokona South.]
Aulad Hossain Khan, Mr. [Manikganj East.]
Azizur Rahman, Mr. Syed. [Bhola South.]

B

Badiuzzaman Muhammad Ilias, Mr. [Bogra East.]
Bafatuddin Talukdar, Mr. A. K. M. [Jamalpur West.]
Bandopadhaya, Mr. Pramatha Nath. [Midnapore South-West.]
Banerjee, Mr. Gobindalal. [Khulna.]
Banerjee, Mr. Sibnath. [Howrah (Registered Factories).]
Banerjee, Mr. Susil Kumar. [Howrah.]
Banerji, Dr. Suresh Chandra. [Calcutta & Suburbs (Registered Factories).]
Barman, Mr. Haran Chandra. [Bogra-*cum*-Pabna.]
Barman, Mr. Mohini Mohan. [Jalpaiguri-*cum*-Siliguri.]
Barury, The Hon'ble Mr. Dwarka Nath. [Faridpur.]
Basu, Mr. Hemanta Kumar. [Calcutta North.]
Basu, Mr. Jyoti. [Railway Trade Union.]
Bhandari, Mr. Charu Chandra. [24-Parganas North-West.]
Bhattacharjee, Mr. Ganendra Chandra. [Dacca East.]
Bhattacharjee, Mr. Munindra Nath. [Dacca West.]
Bhattacharyya, Mr. Shyamapada. [Murshidabad.]
Birsha, Mr. Bir. [Malda.]
*Biswas, Dr. Bhola Nath. [Jessore.]
Biswas, Mr. Gayanath. [Mymensingh West.]
Bose, Mr. Satish Chandra. [Calcutta South.]
Brahmin, Mr. Ratanlal. [Darjeeling Sadar.]

C

Chakraborty, Mr. Benode Chandra. [Mymensingh West.]
Chakravarty, Mr. Satish Chandra. [Presidency Division Municipal.]

*Parliamentary Secretary.

Chatterjee, Mr. Haripada. [Nadia.]
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Mihir Lal. [Birbhum.]
Chowdhury, Mr. Annada Prosad. [Jhargum-*cum*-Ghatal.]
Corstorphine, Mr. E. E. [Indian Tea Association.]

D

Das, Miss Bina. [Calcutta (General).]
Das, Mr. Brojomadhab. [Rangpur.]
Das, Mr. Jogendra Chandra. [Tippera.]
Das, Mr. Radha Nath. [Hooghly North-East.]
Das Gupta, Mr. Khagendra Nath. [Jalpaiguri-*cum*-Siliguri.]
Das Gupta, Mr. Suresh Chandra. [Bogra-*cum*-Pabna.]
Dass, Mr. Kanailal. [Burdwan Central.]
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath. [Tippera.]
De, Mr. Kanai Lal. [Bankura West.]
Dhar, Mr. Manoranjan. [North Bengal Municipal.]
Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath. [Jhargram-*cum*-Ghatal.]
Duff, Mr. D. I. [Indian Jute Mills Association.]
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar. [Hooghly South-West.]
Dutt-Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu. [Barrackpore (Registered Factories).]

E

Ebrahim Khan, Maulvi. [Tangail North.]
Emaduddin Ahammad, Mr. [Rangpur South.]
*Eskandar Ali Khan, Mr. [Madaripur West.]
Emery, Mr. A. J. [Presidency Division European.]

F

Farid Ahmad Chowdhury, Mr. [Chittagong North-East.]
Fazlul Huq, Mr. A. K. [Bakarganj South.]
Fazlul Karim, Mr. [Ramganj-*cum*-Raipur.]
Fazlul Qadir, Mr. [Chittagong North-West.]
Fazlur Rahman (Dacca), The Hon'ble Mr. [Dacca University.]
Fazlur Rahman (Mymensingh), Mr. [Jamalpur East.]
Fazlur Rahman (Noakhali), Mr. [Noakhali North.]
Fisk, Mr. F. W. [Calcutta Trades Association.]

G

Ganguli, Mr. Bepin Behari. [24-Parganas Municipal.]
Gayen, Mr. Arabinda. [Howrah.]
Ghose, Mr. A. K. [Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.]
Ghose, Mr. Bimal Comar. [Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.]
Vacant. [Calcutta East.]
Ghosh Chowdhury, Mr. Haran Chandra. [Noakhali.]
Gomes, Mr. D. [Calcutta-*cum*-Presidency Division.]

Gomes, Mr. R. A. [Dacca Division.]
Guha Roy, Dr. Protap Chandra. [Faridpur.]
Gupta, Mr. J. C. [Calcutta South Central.]
Gupta, Mr. Monoranjan. [Bakarganj North-East.]
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh. [Darjeeling.]

H

Habibul Huq, Mr. Syed. [Kishoreganj North.]
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Mr. [Thakurgaon.]
Haldar, Mr. Kuber Chand. [Murshidabad.]
*Hamiduddin Ahmed, Mr. [Kishoreganj East.]
Hassan Ali, Mr. [Dinajpur Central West.]
Hatemally, Khan Sahib. [Pirojpur South.]
Haywood, Mr. R. [Bengal Chamber of Commerce.]
Hodge, Mr. H. Rowan. [Bengal Chamber of Commerce.]
Husan Ara Begum. [Calcutta (Muhammadan).]
Hutchison, Mr. E. A. [Calcutta & Suburbs.]

I

Ilias Ali Molla, Mr. [24-Parganas Central.]
Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H. [Muslim Chamber of Commerce.]

J

Jalan, Mr. Iswar Das. [Calcutta West.]
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Mr. [24-Parganas South.]
Junabali Mia, Mr. [Chandpur East.]

K

Kabir Ahmed Choudhury, Mr. [Cox's Bazar.]
Kazem Ali Mirza, Shahibzada Kawan Jah Saiyid. [Murshidabad South-West.]
Khairat Hossain, Mr. [Nilphamari.]
Khaitan, Mr. Debi Prosad. [Indian Chamber of Commerce.]
Khuda Bukhsh, Mr. Md. [Berhampore.]
Khurram Khan Panee, Mr. [Tangail South.]
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath. [Dinajpur.]

L

Lahiri, Mr. Provas Chandra. [Rajshahi.]
Luke, Mr. H. A. [Bengal Chamber of Commerce.]
Lutfar Rahman, Mr. [Jessore Sadar.]
Lutfar Rahman, Mr. Dewan. [Pabna East.]

M

Mackinlay, Mr. G. M. [Indian Jute Mills Association.]
Madar Bux, Mr. [Rajshahi Central.]

*Parliamentary Secretary.

*Mafizuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Tippera North.]
Mahammad Afzal, Mr. Syed. [Pirojpur North.]
Mahammad Owais, Mr. [Rangpur North.]
Mahammad Sayeed Mia, Mr. [Malda North.]
Mahanty, Mr. Charu Chandra. [Midnapore Central.]
Mahtab, Sir Uday Chand, K.C.I.E., Maharajadhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan. [Burdwan Landholders.]
Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari. [Burdwan Division North Municipal.]
Majhi, Mr. Nishapati. [Birbhum.]
Majibar Rahman, Mr. [Noakhali Central.]
Majumdar, Mr. Bhupati. [Hooghly-*cum*-Howrah Municipality.]
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra. [Midnapore South-East.]
*Malik, Dr. A. M. [Water Transport Trade Union.]
Mallick, Mr. Ashutosh. [Bankura West.]
Mandal, Mr. Annadaprasad. [Burdwan North-West.]
Mandal, Mr. Bankubehari. [Burdwan North-West.]
Vacant. [Bakarganj South-West.]
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad. [Midnapore Central.]
Maniruddin Akhand, Mr. [Rajshahi North.]
Martuza Reza Chowdhury, Mr. [Jangipur.]
*Masiuddin Ahmed (*alias* Raja Miah), Mr. [Manikganj West.]
Mazharul Haque, Mr. Abu Taiyab. [Dacca Central.]
Methold, Mr. J. H. [Bengal Chamber of Commerce.]
Mobarak Ali Ahmed, Mr. [Bogra North.]
Mohammad Sharif Khan, Mr. [Hooghly-*cum*-Howrah Municipal.]
Mohammad Ali, The Hon'ble Mr. [Bogra West.]
Mookerjee, Dr. Syamaprasad. [Calcutta University.]
Morris, Mr. I. F., O.B.E. [Rajshahi Division.]
Mozzammel Hossain, Dr. Md. [Bagerhat.]
Mudassir Hossain, Mr. [Birbhum.]
Muhammad Habibullah Chaudhury, Mr. [Feni.]
Muhammad Idris, Mr. [Howrah.]
Muhammad Ishaque, Mr. [Bogra South.]
Muhammad Israil, Mr. [Kishoreganj South.]
Muhammad Quasem, Maulana Haji. [Bakarganj West.]
Muhammad Qumruddin, Mr. [Barrackpore Municipal]
Muhammad Rafique, Mr. [Calcutta North.]
Muhammad Ruknuddin, Mr. [Brahmanbaria North.]
Muhammad Siddique, Dr. Syed. [Bankura.]
Mukherji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan. [Hooghly North-East.]
Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behary. [Khulna.]
Murarka, Mr. Basantlal. [Calcutta Central.]
Musharruff Hossain, Nawab, Khan Bahadur. [Jalpaiguri-*cum*-Darjeeling.]
Muzaffar Rahman Choudhury, Mr. [Balurghat.]

N

Nandy, Maharaja Sris Chandra, of Cossimbazar. [Presidency Division Landholders.]
Najmul Huq, Mr. Md. [Malda South.]
*Nasarulla, Mr. K. [Dacca Municipal.]
Naskar, Mr. Ardhendu Sekhar. [24-Parganas North-West.]
Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra. [24-Parganas South-East.]
Nawab Ali, Mr. [Tippera West.]
Nawajesh Ahmed, Mr. [Nadia East.]
Nazir Hossain Khandkar, Mr. [Kurigram South.]
Nooruddin, Mr. K. [Calcutta South.]
Nurazzaman, Mr. [Bhola North.]
Nurul Amin, The Hon'ble Mr. [Mymensingh East.]

O

Osman Ali, Mr. [Narayanganj South.]
Osman Gani, Mr. Md. [Serajganj North.]

P

Paniruddin Ahmed, Mr. [Kurigram North.]
Panja, Mr. Jadabendra Nath. [Burdwan Central.]
Parish, Mr. P. E. G. W. [Calcutta & Suburbs European.]
Pentony, Mr. L. R. [Anglo-Indian.]
Platel, Mr. R. E. [Anglo-Indian.]
Poddar, Mr. Anandilal. [Marwari Association.]
Vacant. [Burdwan Division European.]
Pramanik, Mr. Purna Chandra. [Nadia.]
Pramanik, Mr. Rajani Kanta. [Midnapore East.]

R

Vacant. [Jalpaiguri-*cum*-Siliguri.]
Ray, Mr. Kamal Krishna. [Bankura East.]
Ray, The Hon'ble Mr. Nagendra Narayan. [Rangpur.]
Ray Barman, Mr. Rajani Kanta. [Rangpur.]
Ricketts, Mrs. E. M. [Anglo-Indian.]
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy. [Dacca East.]
Roy, Mr. Harendra Nath. [Dinajpur.]
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar. [East Bengal Municipal.]
Roy, Mr. Ram Hari. [Malda.]
Roy, Mr. Rup Narayan. [Dinajpur.]

S

*Salim, Mr. S. A. [Narayanganj North.]
Sarkar, Mr. Bijoy Krishna. [Jessore.]
Sarkar, Mr. Rajendra Nath. [Khulna.]

*Parliamentary Secretary.

Sarker, Mr. Prafulla Ranjan. [Mymensingh East.]
Sen, Mrs. Ashalata. [Dacca (General).]
Sen, Mr. Debendra Nath. [Colliery (Coal Mines).]
Sen, Mr. Satindra Nath. [Bakarganj South-West.]
Sen Gupta, Mrs. Nellie. [Chittagong.]
Serajal Haque, Mr. Syed. [Tippera South.]
Serajuddin Ahammad, Mr. [Midnapore.]
Serajuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Gaibandha North.]
Serajul Islam, Mr. [Bongaon.]
Shamsuddin Ahmed, The Hon'ble Mr. [Kustia.]
Shamsuddin Ahmed Chowdhury (*alias* Badsha Mia), Mr. [Faridpur East.]
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr. [Gopalganj.]
Shamsuddin Sikdar, Mr. Md. [Patuakhali South.]
Shamsul Huda, Maulana. [Mymensingh South.]
Sharfuddin Ahmad, Mr. [Mymensingh North.]
Singhi, Mr. Narendra Singh. [Rajshahi Landholders.]
Sinha, Mr. Arun Chandra. [Chittagong Landholders.]
Sinha, Mr. Bimal Chandra. [24-Parganas South-East.]
Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G. [Darjeeling.]
Stark, Mr. A. F. [Calcutta and Suburbs.]
Stokes, Mr. N. [Calcutta Trades Association.]
Suhrawardy, The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. [24-Parganas Municipal.]

T

Tafazzal Ali, Mr. [Tippera North-East.]
Taylor, Mr. A. W., O.B.E. [Bengal Chamber of Commerce.]
Thakur, Mr. Pramatha Ranjan. [Faridpur.]
Todd, Mr. N. K. [Dacca Division European.]
Tofazzel Hossain, Mr. [Jhenidah.]

W

Wade, Mr. C. P. G. [Chittagong Division European.]
Walker, Mr. J. R. [Bengal Chamber of Commerce.]
Whitehead, Mr. R. B. [Indian Mining Association.]
Whithous, Mr. H. F. [Bengal Chamber of Commerce.]
Wilkinson, Mr. G. [Hooghly-*cum*-Howrah.]
Wilks, Mr. G. C. D. [Anglo-Indian.]
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C.I.E. [Calcutta and Suburbs European.]

Y

Yusuf Hossain Chowdhury, Mr. [Faridpur West.]

Z

Zaman, Mr. A. M. A. [Hooghly-*cum*-Serampore (Registered Factories).]

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 3rd February, 1947, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 197 members.

Oaths.

The following members took the oath of affirmation or allegiance to the Crown:—

(1) Mr. J. R. Walker,
(2) Mr. J. H. Methold,
(3) Mr. F. W. Frisk,
(4) Mr. P. E. G. Woodbine Parish, and
(5) Mr. A. J. Emery.

Panel of Chairmen.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I make obituary references I would like to announce the panel of Chairmen as nominated by the Hon'ble Mr. Speaker. In accordance with the provisions of rule 6 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules, the Hon'ble Mr. Speaker nominates the following members of the Assembly to form a panel of four Chairmen for the current session:—

(1) Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy,
(2) Mr. D. Gladding,
(3) Husan Ara Begum, and
(4) Mr. Jasimuddin Ahmed.

Unless otherwise arranged, the senior member among them present in the above order will preside over the deliberations of this Assembly in the absence of the Hon'ble Mr. Speaker and Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Obituary.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable members, it is my painful duty to make obituary references with regard to the passing away of as many as nine prominent men of India and this Assembly. Since the Assembly met last or was prorouged, the following gentlemen, sitting members of the Assembly, ex-M.L.A's. and prominent men have passed away: Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, a most eminent personage of this country, the Hon'ble Mr. Abdur Rezzak Hajee Abdus Sattar, a member of the Council of State, Mr. Abdul Awal, Mr. Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury, Mr. Prasanna Deb Raikut and Mr. S. K. Sawday, sitting members of this Assembly. I am also to refer to the deaths of Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy, Maulvi Mustafa Ali Dewan and Mr. Nagendra Nath Sen, ex-Members of the Bengal Legislative Assembly.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, the grand old man of the Indian National Congress and the Hindu Mahasabha, breathed his last on the 12th November, 1946, after a most eventful career of 85 years. His services to his country

and community were manifold and the Hindu University of Benares stands as the living monument of his memory. In him India loses one of the greatest patriots, scholars and social reformers.

The Hon'ble Mr. Abdur Rezzak Hajee Abdus Sattar, member of the Council of State representing the West Bengal Muhammadan Constituency, died on the 28th October, 1946. He was a member of the old Bengal Legislative Council. He took keen interest in the social and political development of the Muslims of Bengal and was one of the founders of the Muslim Chamber of Commerce and the Islamia Hospital, Calcutta.

Mr. Abdul Awal, a member of this Assembly representing the Jessore East Muhammadan Constituency, died on the 25th October, 1946. This Assembly has lost a valuable member whose manners and temperament won the admiration of all who knew him personally.

The sudden death of Mr. Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury, the Chief Whip of the Government of Bengal, took place on the 25th November, 1946. He was elected a member of this Assembly from the Malda South Muhammadan Constituency. He was also a member of the last Bengal Legislative Assembly. He won respect and admiration from all for his sweet and amiable disposition. His death has cut short a promising career.

The death of Mr. Prasanna Deb Raikut occurred on the 4th December, 1946. A member of this Assembly, he was also elected to the Constituent Assembly for India. He was also a member of the last Bengal Legislative Assembly and the old Bengal Legislative Council. Mr. Raikut was a former Minister of the Government of Bengal under the present Government of India Act, 1935. He was held in high esteem by all for his unassuming and unostentatious manners and lovable disposition.

The death of Mr. S. K. Sawday, a sitting member of this House from the Calcutta and Suburbs European Constituency, took place on the 16th January, 1947. He joined the Indian Civil Service in 1908, held many important appointments and retired in 1919. After his retirement he was associated with the commercial life of this country and had many friends, both Indian and European, to mourn his death.

Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy passed away on the 10th January, 1947. He was a member of the last Assembly and the old Bengal Legislative Council. He was elected the Deputy Speaker of the last Bengal Legislative Assembly on the 10th February, 1942. He also performed the duties of the office of the Speaker for over a year after the resignation of Mr. Azizul Haque, the then Speaker. In discharging his duties he impressed all sections of the House by the tactful manner in which he conducted the business of the House at a most difficult and critical time in the history of this Province. A keen parliamentarian, he was a thorough gentleman in the truest sense of the term and was intimately and actively connected with the social and political movements of the country.

Maulvi Mustafa Ali Dewan died on the 27th November, 1946. He was elected a member of the last Bengal Legislative Assembly from the Brahmanbaria North (Muhammadan) Constituency. From his very youth he was actively associated with the political movements in the country and was loved and respected by all who came in contact with him.

The death of Mr. Nagendra Nath Sen took place on the 22nd December, 1946. He was a member of the last Bengal Legislative Assembly and the old Bengal Legislative Council. His long services to the cause of the motherland won for him profound respect and admiration of his countrymen.

Ladies and gentlemen, our heartfelt sympathy goes to the relatives of the deceased and, I am sure, it is the desire of this House to convey our message of condolence to the members of the bereaved families.

I now request you, ladies and gentlemen, to signify your assent by rising in your seats.

(Members rose in their seats.)

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, Secretary will do the needful.

It is very unusual that such a large number of eminent men should have expired within a short period of time. In spite of there being no convention of adjourning the sitting of the Assembly under similar circumstances, I, in consultation with the honourable Leaders of the different parties, have decided to adjourn the sitting of the House till 4-30 p.m. on the 6th as a special case.

Adjournment.

The House was accordingly adjourned at 4-13 p.m. till 4-30 p.m. on Thursday, the 6th February, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the th February, 1947, at 4-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble linisters and 112 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

bservance of Communal Ratio Rules in appointments under Wards Estates in Bengal.

*1. **Mr. NAWAJESH AHMED:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of ıe Department of Land and Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number and names of Wards Estates in Bengal district by district;

(*ii*) the number of Manager, Assistant Manager, Inspector, and Supervisor attached to each estate showing the number of Muslims in each case;

(*iii*) whether the minimum percentage of the Muslim appointments has been reached in each case; and

(*iv*) if not, whether Government considers the desirability of taking steps for maintenance of communal ratio?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlur ahman): (*i*) and (*ii*) A statement furnishing the particulars is laid on ıe Table.

(*iii*) No.

(*iv*) The Communal Ratio Rules do not apply to Estates' services under ıe Court of Wards but the principles of the Rules are, as far as possible, ›plied in making such appointments.

Statement referred to in reply to clauses (i) and (ii) of starred question No. 1.

District.	Serial number and name of Wards Estates.	Number of executive officers attached to each estate.					
		Managers.		Deputy and Assistant Managers.		Circle Inspectors (*a*).	
		Muslim.	Others.	Muslim.	Others.	Muslim.	Others.
Midnapore ..	Sadar group of Wards Estates—						
	(1) R. G. Pal Ward Estate ..						
	(2) K. K. Mukherji Ward Estate ..						
	(3) K. C. Chatterjee Ward Estate ..	..	1	..	..	..	2*
	(4) S. K. Pal Ward Estate ..						
	(5) Danton Wards Estate ..						
	Contai group of Wards Estates—						
	(6) Balisai (Bhuiya) Ward Estate ..						
	(7) Pahari Wards Estate ..	..	1	..	..	1	1
	(8) Pachetgarh Wards Estate ..						
Hooghly ..	(9) B. L. Mukherjee Trust Estate ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
	(10) Mukherjee Wards Estate (Uttarpara) ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
	(11) Goswami Wards Estate ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
24-Parganas ..	Janbazar group of Wards Estates—						
	(12) Janbazar Wards Estate No. I ..						
	(13) Janbazar Wards Estate No. II ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
	(14) Panihati Wards Estate ..						
	Bhowanipur group of Wards Estates—						
	(15) Bhowanipur (Barataraf) ..						
	(16) Bhowanipur (Chototaraf) ..	..	1	..	..	..	3
	(17) Taki Wards Estate ..						
Khulna ..	(18) Syedpur Trust Estate ..	1	..	..	..	..	..
	(19) Khararia Wards Estate ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Calcutta ..	(20) Natore Raj Wards Estate ..	..	1	..	4	..	3†

	[illegible] Estate ..	1	..	1	4	3	2†
	Dhankora group of Wards Estates—						
	(22) Dhankora Wards Estate .. (23) Kazi Alauddin Wards Estate .. (24) Kasimpur Wards Estate ..	..	1	..	..	..	2
	(25) Bhowal Raj Wards Estate ..	..	1	..	1	1	3
	Banglabazar group of Wards Estate—						
	(26) Banglabazar Wards Estate .. (27) Swarnamoyee Wards Estate ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
ymensingh ..	Group of Wards Estates under the General Manager—						
	(28) Haibatnagar Wards Estate .. (29) Gayhatta Wards Estate .. (30) Sherpur Wards Estate No. I .. (31) Muktagacha Wards Estate .. (32) Acharyya Choudhury Wards Estate No. II (33) Acharyya Choudhury Wards Estate No. III (34) Masua Wards Estate .. (35) Santosh Wards Estate No. I .. (36) Santosh Wards Estate No. II ..	..	1	..	3	..	4
ymensingh ..	Shusung group of Wards Estates—						
	(37) Shusung Baratahbil Wards Estate .. (38) Narayandahar Wards Estate No. I .. (39) Durgapur Wards Estate .. (40) Narayandahar Wards Estate No. II .. (41) Ghagra Wards Estate .. (42) Rouha Wards Estate ..	..	1	..	..	..	1
aridpur ..	(43) Habiganj Wards Estate .. (44) Rezia Begum and others ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
akarganj ..	D. S. group of Wards Estates—						
	(45) Dakhin Sahabazar Wards Estate .. (46) Mrs. Lucas Hurney Wards Estate .. (47) N. K. Bosu Wards Estate ..	..	1	..	..	..	1

(a) There are no Supervisors.
*Temporary.
†Including 1 temporary.

District.	Serial number and name of Wards Estates.	Number of executive officers attached to each estate.					
		Managers.		Deputy and Assistant Managers.		Circle Inspectors (a).	
		Muslim.	Others.	Muslim.	Others.	Muslim.	Others.
	M. L. group of Wards Estates—						
	(48) Mrs. H. A. Lucas Wards Estate ..						
	(49) A. K. Devi Wards Estate ..						
	(50) B. L. Roy and others Wards Estate ..						
	(51) S. P. Ghosal Wards Estate ..						
	(52) S. B. Ghosal and Brothers Wards Estate	..	1	..	1	..	1
	(53) S. Ghosal Wards Estate ..						
	(54) S. S. Ghosal Wards Estate ..						
	(55) R. N. Dutta Wards Estate ..						
	(56) Mrs. M. T. Brown Wards Estate ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Chittagong ..	Group of Wards Estates under the General Manager—						
	(57) Padua Gupta Wards Estate ..						
	(58) Lakshmi Kamini Sen Wards Estate ..						
	(59) Mussammat Karimunessa Begum Wards Estate.						
	(60) Promilla Bala Devi Wards Estate ..						
	(61) Jogesh Chandra Roy Wards Estate ..	..	1	..	..	..	2
	(62) Khan Sahib Muzaffar Ahmed Choudhury Wards Estate.						
	(63) Noapara Wards Estate ..						
	(64) Chakmaraj Wards Estate ..						
	(65) J. M. Sen Gupta Wards Estate ..						
Tippera ..	(66) Comilla Nawab Wards Estate ..						
	(67) B. N. Wards Estate ..	..	1	..	..	1	..
	(68) Sachar Wards Estate ..						
Noakhali ..	(69) R. K. Bose Wards Estate ..						
	(70) B. C. Saha Wards Estate ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
	(71) Bhulua 5 annas estate ..						
	(72) De-Launcy Wards Estate ..	..	1	..	..	..	..

ajshahi	..	Group of Wards Estates, Rajshahi—												
		(73) Choughoria Ahia Wards Estate	..											
		(74) Ashraf Wards Estate	..		1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	
		(75) Mahadevpur Wards Estate	..											
Ihajpur	..	(76) Janbazar Wards Estate No. II	..			1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
		(77) Bahin Wards Estate	..			1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
angpur	..	Group of Wards Estates under the General Manager—												
		(78) I. C. Roy Trust Estate	..											
		(79) Afanulla Trust Estate	..											
		(80) Reazuddin Trust Estate	..			1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1*	
		(81) Payda Wards Estate	..											
		(82) Mhipur Wards Estate	..											
		(83) Kamarpukur Wards Estate	..											
		(84) Bardhankuti Wards Estate	..			1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
		(85) Kakina Wards Estate	..			1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	
		(86) Tushbhandar Wards Estate	..			1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
		(87) Tajhat Wards Estate	..			1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	
		(88) Lahiri Wards Estate	..			1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
ogra	..	(89) Noakhila (Dighapata) Wards Estate	..			1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	
abna	..	(90) Tagore Wards Estate	..			1	..	..	..	..	1*	..	..	
		(91) Tarash Wards Estate	..			1	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	
		(92) Murapara Barataraf Wards Estate	..											
		(93) Murapara Mejataraf Wards Estate	..			1	..	..	1	..	1	..		
		(94) Murapara Chototaraf Wards Estate	..											
urshidabad	..	(95) Murshidabad Estate	..		1	..	..	..	3	..	2†	..	1	

(a) There are no supervisors.
*Temporary.
†Including 1 temporary.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: With reference to answer (*iii*), viz., "No", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps Government have taken so far to redress the grievances of the Muslims?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I will refer the honourable member to my answer (*iv*).

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why in the services under the Wards Estates Communal Ratio Rules do not apply?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Those are not practically Government services but still this Ministry issued a circular to the appointing authority that as far as practicable communal ratio resolution as passed by the Assembly and accepted by the Government should be applied.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Muslims are not available to fill up posts even in Muslim estates?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Yes, the Muslims are certainly available and when time comes, their cases will be considered.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the proprietors of the Wards Estates are consulted when executive officers attached to their respective estates are appointed?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: No.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government considers the desirability of consulting those proprietors in these matters?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: The management of the Court of Wards Estates is entirely the responsibility of the Government and they do not think it necessary to consult the proprietors of the respective estates in making appointments of such officers.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government is responsible for the appointment of officers and if suitable Muslims are available, how is it that out of 38 Managers only 4 are Muslims, out of 19 Assistant Managers 1 is Muslim and out of 49 Circle Inspectors 10 are Muslims?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: The present Ministry are not responsible for these appointments.

Mr. KHAIRAT HOSSAIN: With reference to the statement, No. 89 against Bogra-Noakhila Wards Estate, may I know from the Government whether that estate has been released or still that is a ward estate?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Delay in payment of compensation for acquisition of lands in Dinajpur district.

***2. Mr. HASSAN ALI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Land and Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many acres of cultivable lands in Dinajpur district have been acquired for Parbatipur Military Railway constructions and Petrol Pumping Lines at Phulbari and other places and in which year and also for construction of aerodrome at Sibganj;

(*b*) what amount of money were to be given on account of prices of these lands to the owners thereof;

(*c*) how much of the prices and compensation has been paid up till now and how much remains still unpaid; and

(*d*) if not wholly paid as yet, what are the reasons for delay in payments?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlur Rahman): (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) A statement is laid on the Library Table.

(*d*) All possible steps have been taken to expedite payment of compensation. Some delay, however, unavoidably took place as detailed schedules had to be prepared, careful checking had to be done and detailed enquiries had in some cases to be undertaken before payment could be made.

Mr. HASSAN ALI: From the statement it appears that large sums of money, as good as about Rs. 6 lakhs, are remaining unpaid. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when they are expected to be paid?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I think a large portion of the sum which the Hon'ble Minister has referred to has been paid, and the rest which is still unpaid will be expeditiously paid as far as possible.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: When it was possible for the Government and the military authorities to acquire lands in two, three, four days, how is it that it was not possible to expedite the matter and make payments soon?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Acquisitions are to be made under special circumstances and, as a matter of fact, there was emergency, but when payments are made details are to be worked out. The same procedure had to be adopted to come to a settlement as to the amount that had to be paid as compensation and naturally it required time.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: What possible steps are being taken by Government to expedite the payments?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: The officers are being asked to expedite the matter.

Compensation for evacuees of Feni subdivision.

*3. **Mr. HARAN CHANDRA GHOSH CHOUDHURY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Land and Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of villages that were ordered to be evacuated in the Feni subdivision of the Noakhali district between March, 1942, and December, 1945;

(*ii*) the number of them that are still under Government occupation;

(*iii*) if Government propose to release them to their owners; and

(*iv*) if so, when?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the inhabitants of the villages of Barahipur, Dharmapur, Kajilbag, Sultanpur and some other where an aerodrome had been constructed have not received any compensation at all during the last few years for the land thus occupied?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for the same?

(*d*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of giving the evacuees adequate com-

(*e*) Is it a fact that the evacuees of the Feni subdivision who have go their lands back are experiencing great difficulties in building their house due to high price and scarcity of building materials, viz., corrugated iro sheets, bamboos, and other roofing materials?

(*f*) If the answer of (*e*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Ministe be pleased to consider the desirability of providing the evacuees, who hav got their lands back, with building materials at a reasonable price in vie of the costliness and scarcity of the same nowadays?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlu Rahman): (*a*) (*i*) Seventy-four (some fully and some partly evacuated)

(*ii*) Twenty-three.

(*iii*) and (*iv*) Handing back of lands under the "grow more food" schem has already begun. *Formal* derequisition can, however, be made only o receipt of military sanction. The military authorities have already bee moved to sanction early derequisition.

(*b*) and (*c*) No. Land compensation up to 1943-44 for all *mauzas* ha already been paid. Land compensation for 1944-45 in respect of 10 *mauza* of the Feni Air field has also been paid and that for the remaining 13 *mauza* will be paid shortly. There was some delay in payment of compensatio owing to the examination of the question of recovery of certain sums con sidered to have been overpaid.

(*d*) Does not arise.

(*e*) Corrugated iron sheets are not available in large quantities but ther is no dearth of bamboos and other roofing materials.

(*f*) This is not considered quite feasible. Instructions have, however been issued to the local officers to pay terminal compensation for damages etc., as quickly as possible to enable the evacuees to build their houses.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'bl Minister be pleased to state the number of evacuees whose lands have bee requisitioned by the Government?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'bl Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that the question of recover was considered by the Government and a circular was issued over th signature of K. C. Mitra of the Revenue Department saying that the rate of compensation voluntarily accepted by the owners and payable under th terms of agreement under no circumstances can be revised?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: When the acceptance was voluntary the question of revision does not arise.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be please to state the basis for calculating these compensations and whether in mak ing these calculations the rise in prices of building materials has bee taken into consideration?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Certainly.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: My question has not been answered My question is the basis for calculation. "Certainly" is not the answer.

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: No; I have replied to the question. I there are two questions at the same time, how can I reply?

Mr. ABDUL MOMIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to stat if he is aware that two or three thousand cases have been lodged agains Government for inadequate compensation?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I cannot give you the figure now.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the basis of calculation for compensation that is paid to these people?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Some Special Officers have been appointed, but with regard to the compensation I ask for notice.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: With reference to answer (*f*), namely, "This is not considered quite feasible", am I right in presuming that this relates to corrugated iron sheets only?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: All materials.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: In view of what the Hon'ble Minister has just now said, is it not in conflict with his answer (*e*) where the Hon'ble Minister says that there is no dearth of bamboos and other roofing materials but that the shortage was only in respect of corrugated iron sheets?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: It is not possible for Government to supply all materials to evacuees but only to help them in all possible ways. But Government cannot take the responsibility for supplying all materials necessary for constructing houses.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: In view of the fact that there is shortage only in respect of corrugated iron sheets, will Government consider the desirability of furnishing these items to the villagers so that they may construct their homes?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Government will consider this question.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Compensation Office is saturated with corruption, bribery and jobbery, and one crore of ruppes has been misappropriated? That is the public opinion there.

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Government is not prepared to accept the statement unless there are some specific cases.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister aware that Mr. Muazzemuddin Hosain, ex-Revenue Minister, visited this office and observed that the account kept there was worse than that kept in the grocer's shop?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I am not aware of that, but that does not amount to dishonesty.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of transferring and reshuffling the whole lot and replacing them by a better staff?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Unless there is any definite charge Government cannot give any guarantee to reshuffle the staff.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that when the Minister visited the place, even women complained that those were the gentlemen who said that they would not accept their application unless they got five rupees?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I would ask the honourable member to bring specific cases of corruption and misbehaviour, and if such a case is brought, I will certainly consider it.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that a gentleman named Rai Bahadur Dinesh Chandra Gupta was sent to enquire into the matter and that a list of 35 items of grievances was given to him? If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps Government have taken to redress those grievances?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please split up the questions and put them one by one?

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps Government have taken or are going to take with regard to the grievances of the people on the basis of the report of the enquiry made by Rai Bahadur Gupta?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: That is under consideration of Government.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Central Government laid down any standard of basis for calculation of compensation and whether that standard has been adhered to?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Yes, there is a standard of basis laid down by the Central Government, and that is being adhered to as far as possible.

Mr. ABDUL MOMIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the rate of compensation at Comilla is lower than that at Feni?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I ask for notice.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether corrugated iron sheets are being sold in the black market though they are not being given for the use of those whose houses were taken by the military authorities?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I submit, Sir, this question does not arise. Government have no knowledge of the black market.

Budget provision for arrear dearness allowance and increase in the pay of low-paid Government servants.

*4. **Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) what will be the amount of arrear dearness allowance per head per month for which budget provision has been made for different Government servants in the different departments according to the different scales or grades of pay;

(*b*) what will be the amount of increase in the pay of low-paid Government servants for which budget provision has been made in the different departments according to the different scales or grades of pay; and

(*c*) whether the menial staff are also included in this?

Mr. S. A. SALIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*) A statement furnishing the requisite particulars is laid on the Table.

(*b*) The Table in Appendix E on page 134 of the current year's Red Book furnishes the requisite details.

(*c*) Yes.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 4.

DETAILS OF ARREAR DEARNESS ALLOWANCE PROVIDED FOR IN THE BUDGET FOR 1946-47.

Class of Government servants.	Rates of dearness allowance for the period from 1st July to 31st December, 1944.		Amount of arrear dearness allowance per head per month.	Period for which provision has been made in the budget for 1946-47.
	Previous rate sanctioned in Government Order No. 1970F., dated 4th October, 1944.	Enhanced rate subsequently sanctioned in Government Order No. 1130-Estbts., dated 1st April, 1946.		
I. Subordinate services—				
(a) Drawing pay below Rs.35.	Rs.14	Rs.20	Rs.6	6 months.
(b) Drawing Rs.35 and above.	10 per cent. of pay subject to a minimum of Rs.18.	17½ per cent. of pay subject to a minimum of Rs.22.	7½ per cent. of pay subject to a minimum of Rs.4.	Do.
II. Provincial services—				
(a) Unmarried—				
(i) Whose pay does not exceed Rs.750.	5 per cent. of pay subject to a minimum of Rs.30.	7½ per cent. of pay subject to a minimum of Rs.30.	2½ per cent. of pay.	Do.
(ii) Whose pay exceeds Rs.750 but does not exceed Rs.787.	Marginal only, i.e., such amount as together with pay will equal Rs.787.	7½ per cent. of pay.	7½ per cent. of pay less marginal amount previously drawn.	Do.
(iii) Whose pay exceeds Rs.787 but does not exceed Rs.1,000.	Nil ..	7½ per cent. of pay.	7½ per cent. of pay.	Do.
(iv) Whose pay exceeds Rs.1,000.	Nil ..	Marginal only, i.e., such amount as together with pay will equal Rs.1,075.	Marginal amount	Do.
(b) Married—				
(i) Whose pay does not exceed Rs.1,000.	10 per cent. of pay subject to a minimum of Rs.50.	17½ per cent. of pay subject to a minimum of Rs.50.	7½ per cent. of pay.	Do.
(ii) Whose pay exceeds Rs.1,000 but does not exceed Rs.1,099.	Marginal only, i.e., such amount as together with pay will equal Rs.1,100.	17½ per cent. of pay.	17½ per cent. of pay less marginal amount previously drawn.	Do.
(iii) Whose pay exceeds Rs.1,099 but does not exceed Rs.2,000.	Nil ..	17½ per cent. of pay subject to a maximum of Rs.263.	17½ per cent. pay subject a maximum Rs.263.	Do.
(iv) Whose pay exceeds Rs.2,000.	Nil ..	Marginal only, i.e., such amount as together with pay will equal Rs.2,263.	Marginal amount.	Do.
III. Secretary of States' services.	Same as in the case of the Provincial Services—*Vide* II above.			

Selection of candidates for posts of Excise Sub-Inspectors.

*5. **Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge o the Finance Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that witl regard to the selection of Excise Sub-Inspector preliminary interviews o candidates have already taken place this year?

(*b*) Is it a fact that first preference is usually given to meritorious candi dates who have creditable educational qualifications?

(*c*) Is it a fact that a circular was issued by the Government of Indi to all Provincial Governments to the effect that first preference will be give to the war service candidates?

(*d*) If the reply to clauses (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) is in the affirmative, will th Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many of those selected for the posts have been taken from scholar ship-holders and war servicemen;

(*ii*) what are their names;

(*iii*) names of scholarship-holders and war servicemen who originall applied for the posts; and

(*iv*) total number of applicants and their names?

Mr. S. A. SALIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*) Yes. Interviews have so far been made by District Officers for distric nominations only. The candidates have not yet been interviewed finally b the Public Service Commission.

(*b*) Final selection is made on the recommendation of the Public Servic Commission. Government are not aware what criterion is followed by th Commission in giving the first preference. Government have prescribed onl the minimum educational qualification.

(*c*) No. Only a certain percentage of the vacancies that occurred i the end of December, 1945, has been reserved for war service candidates

(*d*) Does not rise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the detailed reply t this question, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether inter views had already taken place on the 4th of January and the followin dates?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Yes.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: With reference to answer (*c*), will th Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who is the authority that has fixed thi percentage of the vacancies to be reserved for war service candidates?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: The Government of Bengal.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: What is th percentage of reservation of vacancies for war service people?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I would refer the honourable member to the circular memorandum No. 143 Est. Calcutta, dated 2nd May, 1946.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer just now given that interviews had taken place, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to reply to question (*d*) in detail?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: The recommendations of the Public Service Com mission have not yet been received.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the considerations that actuated the Government in reserving a certain percentage of vacancies for war service candidates?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: That was outlined by a notification of the Government of India.

Mr. BANKU BEHARI MANDAL: What is the minimum standard of qualification for these posts?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I ask for notice.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: In view of the answer just now given, may I take it that there are no fixed standards maintained by the Government in the matter of recruitment to these services?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: There are standards, of course.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is incumbent on the Government to follow the circular that was issued by the Government of India in respect of reserving a certain percentage of vacancies for war service candidates?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: On the basis of the circular issued by the Government of India the Government of Bengal accepted the percentage laid down.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Sir, I am sorry, my question has not been answered. My question is, whether it is incumbent on the Government to accept or they voluntarily accepted that circular?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: My question is, whether it is incumbent or not on the Government of Bengal to follow that circular?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: If the Provincial Government decide to give effect to the circular, they may do that.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: The Provincial Government concurred with the Commission in reserving a certain percentage. Is that the position?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: They have concurred.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is the policy of the Government not to be aware about the criterion to be followed by the Public Service Commission in all sorts of appointments?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: That question does not arise.

Demonstration within the Assembly House compound.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, may I refer to one incident that is now taking place just in front of the Assembly building? Several students, Muhammadan and Hindu, are there. They are making some demonstration, I do not know what for, but the police are assaulting them and pushing them with *lathis*. There may be some accidents and there may be something serious there. Will you please enquire into the matter and stop the police from assaulting them?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot adjourn the business of the House.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will you kindly ascertain what is the position and find out what is going on outside because we are hearing noise?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sending a responsible person for enquiry.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will you please ask any of the members of the Cabinet to go and ascertain what is going on there? That was done on the last occasion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leaders can go there.

Mr. A. F. STARK: On a point of order, Sir. Is it not a fact that there was an agreement last session that all demonstrations and processions should be kept outside the compound of the Assembly building? Was it not an agreement between the parties? Have I made myself clear? There was an agreement that in future demonstrations and processions should be kept outside the compound and it was left to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to see that that agreement was enforced.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Stark's statement is correct. I also consulted the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and I found that there was really an agreement between the parties that demonstrations should be kept outside the Assembly House compound. But so far as today's demonstrations are concerned, when the first batch of demonstrators really came inside the Assembly House compound, I was sitting in my chamber and they came unnoticed. Nobody had the information that the demonstrators would be entering the compound. But when the Council was sitting it was not within my jurisdiction to take action in the matter and when the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Hardwick, came to see me I advised him to see the Hon'ble the President of the Upper House. He and the Deputy Commissioner (South) saw the President of the Upper House who, I understand, ordered that whatever demonstrators might have entered the Assembly House compound, might remain but further demonstrators should not be allowed to enter the compound. That order is being pursued even now.

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: Do I understand that any particular party is responsible for the demonstration that is taking place this afternoon?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is more than I can say.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: On a point of information, Sir. What are the names of the parties between which this agreement was arrived at that no demonstrations would be allowed to enter the Assembly precincts?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: "Parties" means the principal parties those who have the status of parties.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: I would like to know the names.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You know the names of the parties. It is not for me to say, but if you want enlightenment, I can tell you—Government Party, the Opposition Party and the European Party.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Opposition includes so many groups and parties I would like to know the specific parties.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Groups are not parties.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Did the Muslim League as a party in the Assembly or the Congress as a party in the Assembly agree to this that demonstrations will not come inside the precincts of the Assembly House?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Government party and the party in opposition.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: On a point of information, Sir. What is the demonstration today for? We do not know anything about it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As far as I have been able to ascertain from the slogans used by the demonstrators, it is really a fight between two persons, viz., Mr. Fazlul Huq and Mr. Abul Hashim, for the presidentship of the Provincial Muslim League Council. That is what I could guess from the slogans that are being shouted by the demonstrators.

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: On a point of order. May I respectfully request the Chair not to drag in persons without their permission into controversies in which they have taken no part.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I really do not understand, Mr. Fazlul Huq. I would like that the honourable member would be categorical.

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am the only Fazlul Huq here and therefore I would object to what has been said.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When I said Mr. Fazlul Huq, I meant the honourable Mr. Fazlul Huq who stood on his legs just now.

Assessees under Bengal Agricultural Income Tax Act, 1944, in Dinajpur district.

*6. **Mr. HASSAN ALI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of assessees under the Bengal Agricultural Income Tax Act, 1944, in the Dinajpur district in the year 1351 B.S. and 1352 B.S.;

(*ii*) how much money has been collected on account of the Agricultural Income-tax in the district in the said years;

(*iii*) how many appeals have been preferred to the Assistant Commissioners, Agricultural Income-tax, against the assessments of the Income-tax Officer at Dinajpur and how many appeals were allowed and how many are still pending;

(*iv*) what is the amount of collection of Agricultural Income-tax for the years 1351 and 1352 in each of the districts of the Province; and

(*v*) how many appeals were preferred against the assessment of the Income-tax Officers for the years 1351 and 1352 in each of the districts (excepting Dinajpur) of the Province and with what results?

Mr. S. A. SALIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*i*) 2,661 in each of the years 1351 and 1352 B.S.

		Rs.
(*ii*) In 1351 B.S. (i.e., 1944-45)	...	Nil
In 1352 B.S. (i.e., 1945-46)	...	4,35,080

(*iii*) to (*v*) Statements are laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (iii) of starred question No. 6.

No. of appeals preferred during the year 1945-46.	No. of appeals preferred during the current year up to 31st July, 1946.	Total No. of appeals preferred up to 31st July, 1946.	Number of Appeals disposed of during the years 1945-46 and 1946-47 up to 31st July, 1946.							Total No. of appeals pending.
			Confirmed.	Enhanced.	Reduced.	Annulled.	Set aside.	Dismissed or struck off.	Total No. of appeals disposed of.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
72	63	135	9	..	52	2	2	1	66	69

Statement referred to in reply to clause (iv) of starred question No. 6.

Name of the district.	Collection in 1351 B.S., i.e., in 1944-45.			Collection in 1352 B.S., i.e., in 1945-46.		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Calcutta				36,68,567	3	0
24-Parganas				1,06,771	3	0
Howrah				9,056	12	0
Hooghly				23,876	7	0
Nadia				90,267	5	0
Murshidabad				3,16,097	11	0
Burdwan				2,79,285	10	6
Birbhum				8,233	6	0
Bankura				41,729	14	0
Midnapore				3,34,768	3	0
Khulna				2,98,646	12	0
Jessore				49,461	6	0
Barisal				1,29,382	14	0
Faridpur				28,354	15	0
Dacca				3,83,673	1	0
Mymensingh				9,74,860	9	6
Tippera				1,29,073	7	0
Noakhali				21,380	9	0
Chittagong (with Chittagong Hill Tracts) ..				40,819	0	0
Jalpaiguri				5,29,043	7	0
Darjeeling				54,082	0	0
Dinajpur				4,35,030	0	0
Rangpur				1,05,341	6	0
Bogra				1,34,702	7	0
Pabna				1,68 009	4	0
Malda	119	8	0	2,29,186	3	0
Rajshahi	9,344	8	0	5,01,531	1	0
Total ..	9,464	0	0	90,91,232	0	0

Statement referred to in reply to clause (v) of starred question No. 6.

Name of the district.	No. of appeals filed in 1351, i.e., 1944-45.	No. of appeals filed in 1352, i.e., 1945-46.	Number of Appeals disposed of.							No. of appeals pending on 1st April, 1946.
			Confirmed.	Enhanced.	Reduced.	Annulled.	Set aside with direction for further enquiry.	Dismissed or struck off.	Total No. of appeals disposed off.	
Calcutta ..	..	59	17	9	12	1	1	3	43	16
24-Parganas ..	..	68	7	..	4	..	2	..	13	55
Howrah ..	..	22	1	..	13	1	6	..	21	1
Hooghly ..	..	14	5	..	1	1	..	..	7	7
Jalpaiguri ..	..	52	5	3	20	1	..	..	29	23
Darjeeling ..	..	18	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	16
Burdwan ..	..	69	4	..	11	11	8	..	34	35
Birbhum ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Bankura ..	..	28	4	..	8	2	6	..	20	8
Midnapore ..	..	34	4	3	11	1	3	1	23	11
Khulna ..	..	164	36	11	26	3	10	2	88	76
Jessore ..	..	22	4	1	2	1	1	..	9	13
Barisal ..	..	67	18	..	11	2	..	..	31	36
Nadia ..	..	23	3	..	2	..	3	..	8	15
Murshidabad ..	..	28	6	..	7	..	..	..	13	15

Malda ..	..	57	3	1	11	4	2	1	22	35
Rangpur ..	..	4	1	..	2	..	..	1	4	..
Bogra ..	..	8	1	..	3	..	1	1	6	2
Dacca ..	..	33	7	..	6	..	..	..	13	20
Faridpur ..	..	29	4	1	7	..	..	..	12	17
Mymensingh ..	..	101	26	3	28	..	..	3	60	41
Tippera ..	..	13	1	..	2	1	..	3	7	6
Noakhali ..	..	14	..	..	4	..	..	..	4	10
Chittagong ..	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Chittagong Hill Tracts ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	1,026	176	32	218	34	46	16	522	504

Improvement of Old Benares Road between Chanditala and Sheakhala.

*7. **Mr. RADHANATH DAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in cha of the Works and Buildings Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether Babu Krishna Kumar Mitra of Kalachara sent a memori dated the 13th December, 1945, to His Excellency the Gover in which all facts and figures have been described for the impro ment of the Old Benares Road between Chanditala and Sheakh that was redirected to the Works and Buildings Department the 24th January, 1946;

(*ii*) how many representations have been received by the Governm from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Bengal Natio Chamber of Commerce, the Marwari Chamber of Commerce, t Muslim Chamber of Commerce, who have repeatedly requested t Government to start work immediately for the improvement the Old Benares Road between Chanditala and Sheakhala, t improvement of which was promised by the Government und letter No. 1276C., dated the 22nd May, 1939;

(*iii*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to t petition, dated the 6th July, 1946, sent by the said petition stating that the said unmetalled road is now quite impassal during the rainy season and the difficulties of the pedestrians a the cart traffic have been awfully increased; and

(*iv*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to t cuttings of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, Calcutta, dated the 2 November, 1945, the *Advance*, Calcutta, dated the 20th Februa 1946, the *Morning News*, Calcutta, dated the 7th March, 19 which were sent to the Government by the said petitioner?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Mini be pleased to state—

(*i*) when the work is to start on this project; and

(*ii*) what is the estimated time for the completion of this work?

MINISTER in charge of WORKS AND BUILDINGS DEPARTM (the Hon'ble Mr. Dwarakanath Barori): (*a*) (*i*), (*iii*) and (*iv*) Yes.

(*ii*) Several representations were received from these bodies and they w informed of the position.

(*b*) (*i*) It has been decided to maintain the road in a state of good rep as an existing unmetalled road until the Calcutta-Delhi National High and other post-war roads meant for this area are completed. Orders l accordingly been issued for taking up the maintenance of the road, wl will be done after the rains and after water has subsided from the side la

(*ii*) About 3 months.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: With reference to answer (*b*), will Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to who is responsible for the (cutta-Delhi National Highway and other post-war roads and as to when t are likely to be completed?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARKANATH BARORI: That is a matter for Central Government.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pl to state whether the Bengal Government have any information fron Central Government as to when this work may be completed?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKANATH BARORI: Not yet.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: With respect to rains that is ref to in answer (*b*)(*i*), is it coming rain or the rain which had already g

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKANATH BARORI: The work has already ;en started.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: I wanted to know whether the rain ferred to in answer (*b*)(*i*) is the coming rain or the rain which was already 'er.

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKANATH BARORI: Rain already over.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Three months have already elapsed ince the rains have been over. Has the road been brought up to a state if serviceable use?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKANATH BARORI: The work has already)een started.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: With reference to answer (*b*)(*ii*) in vhich the Hon'ble Minister has stated "About three months" and since hree months have already elapsed, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased o state as to why the work has not already been completed?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKANATH BARORI: Three months are not 'et over.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Sir, I could not get any answer.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: He has said that three months re not yet over.

Demonstration within Assembly House compound.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I may tell the honourable members of this ssembly that I have now received a note from the Deputy Commissioner f Police on duty. This is the note: "The boys are attacking the police nd trying to rush into the Chamber. It is necessary to arrest them all n unlawful assembly and assaulting police officers." (Mr. KIRAN ANKAR ROY: Government may take such action as they think fit.) If ou think it is the business of Government to take such action as the overnment think fit I will hand over the slip to the Government. (Cries f "Yes, yes" by some members.) I hope the honourable members will ear me first. I will in that case be content by handing over this chit to ie Government, but I have heard discussion in this House that when the peaker has refused to do something on an occasion like this it had been aid that he had abdicated. If honourable members really want the Speaker) exercise his power I would like to hear the leaders of the different parties. would hear their suggestions first. I do not want to give my opinion now. feel it is a question of principle which had been decided upon once and it in be decided upon again as to what steps should be taken on an occasion ke this.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: You should djourn the House for five minutes and discuss the matter with party leaders.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: I support you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There will be no adjournment. I am epared to hear the opinions of the leaders of the different parties.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: I am sorry, without knowing all the facts nd without understanding the background I am not in a position to advise ou in this matter.

Mr. J. R. WALKER: Speaking for the European Group—I cannot advise you—but speaking for this Group we will support you in anything you do which will maintain law and order, and anybody who defies law and order should be dealt with.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, it is a very grave matter; the police are again trying to *lathi*-charge the students.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Basu, kindly take your seat. I will only hear the leaders of the different parties.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, I have a right to speak as it is such a grave and important matter when students are going to be *lathi*-charged by the police.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, the Hon'ble the Chief Minister is not here, and I am in a somewhat embarrassing position because I do not know the details of the statement which the Deputy Commissioner of Police has made, but on the last occasion it was, I believe the desire of the House that anything which happens within the premises of the Assembly should be dealt with by the Speaker and therefore it is for you, Sir, as the officiating Speaker today to take up the matter; and if it is the desire of the House that the matter should be dealt with by Government, Government is certainly competent enough to deal with the situation effectively.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to hear the leader of the Opposition. He observed a few minutes ago that it was the business of the Government to deal with this matter. Does he still maintain that view?

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Either it is the business of Government or it is the business of Government according to your instructions. We do not come ino the picture at all.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask for co-operation of the leaders of the different parties.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Our co-operation is always sought for on an occasion like this; otherwise our co-operation is never sought for.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So far as I am concerned I have sought for your co-operation on other occasions too.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: I am not speaking personally of you.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, I was trying to tell you very humbly that this is a very important matter. A note has been handed over to you that students outside the premises of this House are again being beaten up by the police.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think you have not heard when I read out the note. Do you want me to read it out again?

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Some members heard that some students were roughly handled by the police.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You said that on the authority of an honourable member, but the note does not say that.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: I hear that a member of this House has already brought to your notice that some of the students have been mishandled and as such I think that it is your duty and it is the duty of everybody here to adjourn the House for sometime, go out and find out what is happening and prevent the police from *lathi*-charging the students. We have had enough of these *lathi*-charges.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Has anyone seen that?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Yes, Sir, I have seen with my own eyes, and probably it was Mr. Doha who was trying to prevent them, but they were not listening to what Mr. Doha was saying. I think it was probably Mr. Doha. In spite of his trying to prevent rough handling of the students the European sergeants were actually roughly handling the students.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, before you give your verdict or order, I hope you will realise one thing, *i.e.*, the Speaker of the House must be consistent throughout. If the Speaker says that this matter should be handled by Government on the advice of the leaders of parties I hope he will maintain this consistency throughout and not shirk this responsibility second time if there is any action taken by Government. I believe the leader of the Opposition made a complaint sometime back that any incident which occurs within the precincts of the Assembly House should be dealt with by the Speaker. If he wants that position to be maintained, I would naturally advise the Speaker to deal with the situation now. I do not think the leader of the Opposition has any right to conveniently shirk his responsibility and on another occasion take up the issue and say that this is outside the jurisdiction of Government. I hope whatever action is taken now will create a precedent and there will be consistency throughout and the leader of the Opposition will not have any occasion to grumble or complain later on.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Why not?

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Sir, we have got three reports of the incident up till now. One from you; you said that this is in connection with election and fight between two groups of the Muslim League led by Mr. Fazlul Huq and Mr. Abul Hashim. The second information is from a member of the Opposition who said that students are being assaulted. He saw it; there are others also who saw it with their own eyes. Information No. 3 is from the Deputy Commissioner of Police to the effect that innocent police officers are being assaulted by the students.

I would request one of the members of the Cabinet to go out and ascertain the facts as the Hon'ble the Chief Minister is not present here. I made that suggestion but unfortunately my suggestion has not been accepted. I also find now that the leader of the Opposition is shirking his responsibility. On other occasions he delivered long speeches, but today he is indifferent. Sir, according to the remarks of one of the members opposite I understand that the students are being assaulted. Others have also heard to that effect. We therefore want to adjourn the business of the House for a short while. Let us go out and see what is going on outside and whether it is in connection with the Muslim League election or anything else concerning this Assembly.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: May I make a further statement, Sir. I am sorry the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali and other friends have misunderstood me. First of all I deny that the Opposition has any responsibility in this matter. I am perfectly willing to concede and, I think, it is agreed that within the Assembly premises and the Assembly House compound the police ought to act under the orders of the Speaker. I have never denied that. But when you asked me for my advice I said that I was not competent to advise you without knowing all the incidents and the background of it. Further the whole question is embarrassing because I understand the students are all Muslim students and any advice I may give may lead to

incidents that have happened. If you want me to give you advice I can possibly do so provided I know all the facts. Otherwise it is not possible for me to advise you.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Sir, the matter is very urgent and reports are coming that the students outside are being assaulted. So there is not much time to lose. It was decided long ago that this Assembly House and the grounds around are within the jurisdiction of the Speaker and, in his absence, of the Deputy Speaker. The Cabinet Ministers do not come into the picture. So long as the Speaker is alive to his duties and to the rights and privileges of this Assembly, it is the clear duty of the Speaker or of the Deputy Speaker, whoever may be in charge, to deal with the matter according to law. So there is no time to lose. I would ask the Deputy Speaker to adjourn the House for a few minutes and take such leaders as would co-operate with him in dealing with the situation and I hope within five minutes the matter may be settled. But if you make delay, the matter may pass out of your control.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have heard the leaders of the different parties and I will decide my course of action. In the meantime the business of the House may go on.

(Further supplementaries to starred question No. 7.)

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when those three months will be over?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKANATH BARORI: I want notice.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that a scheme for improvement of this road was sanctioned some years ago and that an expenditure of Rs. 1,78,000 was incurred on that road?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKANATH BARORI: I ask for notice.

Appointment of Muslim Assistant Engineers in Works and Buildings Department.

***8. Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Works and Buildings Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many temporary Muslim Assistant Engineers are now working in Works and Buildings Department;

(*ii*) how many temporary Assistant Engineers have been made permanent in 1945 and 1946;

(*iii*) how many of them are—

(1) Hindus, and
(2) Muslims;

(*iv*) whether the posts were advertised;

(*v*) if not, why not; and

(*vi*) whether the communal ratio has been maintained in permanent services of Assistant Engineers?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*vi*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action he is proposing to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKANATH BARORI: (*a*) (*i*) Nine.

(*ii*) 1945—2.
1946—nil.

(*iii*) (1)—2.
(2)—nil.

(*iv*) and (*v*) The two appointments were not cases of direct recruitment by advertisement. They were cases of conversion of two non-gazetted technical permanent posts ultimately to two permanent posts of Assistant Engineers together with their permanent incumbents.

(*vi*) and (*b*) Yes, as far as possible. So far as the 2 permanent appointments referred to above are concerned, the fact that both the permanent posts have been filled by non-Muslims will be taken into account in allotting future permanent vacancies in the Bengal Engineering Service to different communities.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the converted posts should not be treated as new posts?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKANATH BARORI: The posts were not cases of direct recruitment.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this is a method adopted to defeat the object of the communal ratio rules?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKANATH BARORI: No.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long the Government will use such vague and uncertain terms like "as far as possible", so far as the question of maintenance of communal ratio is concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKANATH BARORI: Steps will be taken for proper recruitment to future permanent vacancies.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: On a point of order, Sir. Is it quite right for one Hon'ble Minister to prompt loudly another Hon'ble Minister to answer his questions?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: With reference to the answer (*a*)(*vi*) and (*b*), viz., "Yes, as far as possible", I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister how long the Government will use these vague terms so far as the maintenance of communal ratio in services is concerned.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a question for eliciting information: so, I do not allow it.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of maintaining the efficiency of the services while observing the communal ratio rules?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKANATH BARORI: Yes.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us what is the ratio in the case of these appointments?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKANATH BARORI: I ask for notice.

Condition of service of the employees of the Electrical Circle.

*9. **Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Works and Buildings Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the employees of Electrical Department, Western and Workshop Divisions, are not made permanent even after 25 or 30 years of continuous service;

(*b*) whether many of them have 24 hours' duty;

(*c*) whether they are not granted any facility as holiday pay, overtime, etc.; and

(*d*) whether the Hon'ble Minister is considering the desirability of enquiry into their long-standing grievances and making permanent all those who have put in one year's approved service?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKANATH BARORI: (*a*) I presume the honourable member refers to the employees borne on the work-charged establishment of the Western (Electrical) and the Workshop (Electrical) Divisions. They are treated throughout their term of employment as members of work-charged establishmnt which is separate from permanent establishment.

(*b*) No one is on 24 hours' duty. A very few men are allowed to stay in the premises of jails and hospitals so that they may be available to attend to any emergency at night.

(*c*) They are paid for all holidays. Hours of work are so regulated that the question of granting overtime allowance does not arise.

(*d*) The conditions of employment of these men are under review.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly explain what he means by work-charged establishment?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKANATH BARORI: It is a matter of general knowledge.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department be pleased to state whether these posts are like those of the Ministers—permanently non-permanent?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a question.

Firing upon workers of Dakeswari Cotton Mills No. 2.

***10. Mr. JYOTI BASU:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware that on the 25th March, 1946, the Police and the authorities of the Dakeswari Cotton Mills No. 2 in Narayangunge opened fire upon the workers of the Mills?

(*b*) If so, how many were killed as a result of such firings and how many were injured?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any enquiry was held into these incidents?

(*d*) If so, whether the results of the enquiry were made known to the Police or the workers of the Mills?

(*e*) If the Government are aware that criminal cases have been launched against the workers of the Mills?

(*f*) If any officer or employee of the Dakeswari Cotton Mills No. 2 was arrested for firing upon the workers?

(*g*) If the Government contemplate to withdraw the cases against the workers concerned and also if the Government are prepared to hold non-official enquiry into the incidents of the 25th March, 1946?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) and (*c*) Yes.

(*b*) Four were killed and forty-nine persons were injured and admitted into the hospital.

(*d*) Yes. The Judicial Enquiry in the complaint cases having been held by the Subdivisional Officer publicly, the results are known to all concerned.

(*e*) Yes, against persons believed to have been guilty of assaults against the police.

(*f*) and (*g*) No.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with regard to answer (*d*), whether apart from the judicial enquiry with regard to a complaint case in court, any other public enquiry was held into this firing incident in the Dakeswari Mills?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: With regard to answer (*e*), is it the avowed policy of the Government always to arrest workers and not the owners of mills?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Then why were not those people arrested when they fired on the workers?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: There was sufficient cause to arrest them.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: I wiuld like to know what was the sufficient cause to the knowledge of the Minister?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: They were found guilty of assault.

Mr. GANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: There was allegation that the Manager fired upon the workers. Why the police did not arrest the Manager and take steps?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: There was no such allegation before Government.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Whether the Minister would be pleased to state if, after an enquiry was held, they found out that the workers were guilty of assault?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: It was done by judicial enquiry.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Apart from the judicial enquiry with regard to one case, four other workers were killed as a result of this firing. Whether any enquiry was held into that matter, I mean public enquiry?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: That was departmentally enquired into.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, after the Labour Minister enquired into the matter and the strike was withdrawn, why should not the Government withdraw the cases against the workers?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have no information about what was done in the Labour Department.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be surprised to hear that no departmental enquiry was held with regard to this matter?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I think the reports of the police officers were there.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us who held the departmental enquiry?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Officers of the Police Department.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Who is this officer of the Police Department?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I think the officers reported the matter to the District Magistrate who enquired and reported it to Government.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Was the enquiry held in camera or in public?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: It was not a public enquiry.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of discussing the matter with the Labour Minister who was so sympathetic and to see whether it is possible o withdraw all the cases against the workers?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Government will consider the matter.

Adjournment Motions.

Mr. HARAN CHANDRA GHOSH CHOWDHURY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg leave of the House to move the adjournment motion to which you have given consent.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is there any objection to the adjournment motion?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, I think the matter is not urgent and therefore does not fulfil the requirement of the provision of the adjournment motion. I think it should not be admitted.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: And the matter is not of recent date.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given consent. Now, honourable members who are in favour of the adjournment motion being moved will kindly rise in their seats.

(Some honourable members rose in their seats.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Since 80 members have signified their assent by standing up in support of the adjournment motion, the leave is granted.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, I had moved an adjournment motion regarding unwarranted and indiscriminate arrests, assaults and shootings by the Police on the peasants of a village within Chinir Bander thana where two persons were killed and consent was given to that motion. I submit that another date should be fixed for discussion of that motion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Since one motion is accepted, no other date can be fixed for another motion.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: We on this side of the House have many adjournment motions and consent has been given to them. I think the constitutional position is that if the Speaker waives the urgency of my motion, then the motion can be held over. The rule says that not more than one motion can be taken up at the single sitting of the House. That means today only one motion can be discussed. Rules do not say that other motions cannot be discussed on any other day if the Speaker waives the urgency. In view of the importance of the matter we would like to bring it to the notice of the House and I would request you to waive the urgency of the motion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So far as rules are concerned, all the motions which are sought to be moved propose to adjourn the business of the House on the 3rd and the business of the 3rd has been carried over to the 6th. One motion has been selected and the other motions are not to be moved, they automatically fall through. That is so far as the practice of this House is concerned. There had never been any occasion in this House where more than one motion has been allowed under similar circumstances.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: May I submit, Sir, one thing? If we bring in a fresh adjournment motion on a very vital matter which is still continuing, for example, non-release of political prisoners, or non-supply of mustard oil, if we bring these matters before the House, may we expect to obtain your permission to move an adjournment motion?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry I cannot reply to a hypothetical question like this. When the honourable member will put forward any motion for adjournment, that will be considered on its merits, but it is not possible for me to lay down now what I will say on a future motion.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, there is no provision in the rules under which we cannot fix another date for discussion of another motion for adjournment. I do not know whether there is any such rule.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am afraid the honourable member is very much misinformed. Both under the rules and according to practice in this House only one adjournment motion may be moved in this session. Unless certain new things occur, all the other adjournment motions lapse. If certain new incidents occur between now and later on which may justify other adjournment motions, then obviously other adjournment motions can be moved in this session. There will be ample opportunity for the honourable members to ventilate their grievances, as this is a Budget Session. It is a recognised, well-recognised practice that in the Budget Session, if there are matters which the honourable members may consider to be of urgent public importance, and if the Speaker does not admit them to be moved by way of adjournment motion, because that would take up the time of the House, the honourable members have the right to discuss them during the Budget on cut motions in this House.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: The Hon'ble the Chief Minister has misled us and has misinterpreted the rules. The rules do not say that there cannot be moved more than one adjournment motion in one session. Rule 98(*1*) says that not more than one such motion shall be made at the same sitting. I have sufficient respect for the intellect of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister and I think he can distinguish between a session and a sitting. The constitutional position is this that not more than one motion can be moved at this particular sitting.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think it is not necessary for me to discuss this question at the present moment. If the honourable member wants to discuss this question, I would request him to come to my Chamber. I shall be glad to discuss that question there. Nor is it necessary to deal with the reply given by the Chief Minister. I have given my decision already.

I would like to know from the Leader of the Opposition as to the time which should be fixed up for the discussion of the adjournment motion.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Today, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are only two or three matters to be gone through. Probably they will be finished in five minutes.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: In that case we must have full two hours.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Certainly you will have two hours.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: And the other motions lapse?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As far as the constitutional practice goes I have got to take up the motion belonging to the Opposition. Consent

has been given to other adjournment motions and I have allowed one to be discussed. So other motions automatically fall through. I cannot reconsider the question of your adjournment motion again.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: You have been referring to the practice.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: At present this practice is observed. I do not see any other parliamentary practice just now.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: You should set up a new practice.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If Mr. Basu has got any grievance against the Hon'ble Minister for Law and Order, then as the Hon'ble Minister in charge of law and order has pointed out, he can discuss that question on the floor of this House when the Budget demand on that subject will be taken up. My honourable friend can move a cut motion and draw the attention of the House to the matter which he wants to bring to the notice of this House by an adjournment motion. I do not think the honourable member will be prejudiced.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: I will do my best to utilise the little privilege I have got. But here it is an important matter concerning peasants. Lakhs of peasants in our country are affected by this *tebhaga* system for which they have been shot down by the Government.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have nothing more to add to what I have said. You will have your chance this session.

Point of Privilege.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: On a point of privilege, Sir. I would like to point out one thing before the discussion of the adjournment motion begins. It is a very important matter of privilege of the honourable members of this House. Although four months have elapsed since the Assembly was last prorogued, we have not yet been supplied with printed proceedings of the business that was transacted during the last session. The Budget is scheduled to be presented within 10 or 11 days, and we cannot possibly participate in the Budget discussion unless we have proceedings of the last session, particularly pronouncements and statements of the Ministers, before us. It is absolutely essential that we should get those proceedings before the Budget discussion begins.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I had a discussion with Secretary over this matter and he tells me that press has not yet supplied him with proceedings.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Sir, I submit that until the copies of last sessions proceedings, either printed or cyclostyled, are supplied to us, the presentation of the Budget should be deferred. Why has not the Assembly a press of its own.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will consider the point raised by Mr. Ghose and I will have a discussion with the Hon'ble the Chief Minister.

Discrimination in imposing collective fines at Dacca.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, I may in this connection also refer to the policy of Government in imposing collective fines in Dacca. Government have imposed more fines on the Hindus than on the Muslims and therefore I hope the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker will allot another day for this subject.

Report of the Select Committee on The Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1946.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg to submit the interim report of the Select Committee on the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill that

s referred to a Select Committee by a motion of this House and I shall mit the final report very soon. I pray that time may be extended till 28th of this month and I hope I will be able to submit the final report that time.

The motion for extension of time was put and agreed to.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

ORDINANCES.

The Bengal Jute Mills (Temporary Provision) Ordinance, 1946.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I beg to proceed under tion 88(2)(a) of the Government of India Act, 1935, to lay the Bengal e Mills (Temporary Provision) Ordinance, 1946.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: In accordance with the provisions section 88 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I beg with your mission to move a resolution immediately expressing disapproval of the linance.

The Bengal Consumer Goods Control Ordinance, 1946.

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: Sir, under section 88(2)(a) of Government of India Act, 1935, I beg to lay the Bengal Consumer ods Control Ordinance, 1946.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I beg with your permission to ve a resolution immediately expressing disapproval of the Ordinance.

The Noakhali and Tippera Emergency Harvesting Ordinance, 1946.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, under section 88(2)(a) the Government of India Act, 1935, I beg to lay the Noakhali and ipera Emergency Harvesting Ordinance, 1946.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I beg to move a resolution express- disapproval of the Ordinance.

The Calcutta Rent Ordinance, 1946.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, under section 88(2)(a) the Government of India Act, 1935, I beg to lay the Calcutta Rent linance, 1946.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I beg to move a resolution express- disapproval of the Ordinance.

The Bengal Molasses Control Ordinance, 1946.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, under section 88(2)(a) the Government of India Act, 1935, I beg to lay the Bengal Molasses ntrol Ordinance, 1946.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I beg to move a resolution ressing disapproval of the Ordinance.

The Dacca Area Security Ordinance, 1946.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, under section 88(2)(a) the Government of India Act, 1935, I beg to lay the Dacca Area Security linance, 1946.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I beg to move a resolution expressing disapproval of the Ordinance.

The Bengal Drugs Control Continuance Ordinance, 1946.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, under section 88(2)(a) of the Government of India Act, 1935, I beg to lay the Bengal Drugs Control Continuance Ordinance, 1946.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I beg to move a resolution expressing disapproval of the Ordinance.

The Noakhali and Tippera Area Security Ordinance, 1946.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, under section 88(2)(a) of the Government of India Act, 1935, I beg to lay the Noakhali and Tippera Area Security Ordinance, 1946.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I beg to move a resolution expressing disapproval of the Ordinance.

The Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1947.

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKANATH BARORI: Sir, under sectio 88(2)(a) of the Government of India Act, 1935, I beg to lay the Beng Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1947.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I beg to move a resolutio expressing disapproval of the Ordinance.

The Bengal Special Powers Ordinance, 1946.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, under section 88(2)(a of the Government of India Act, 1935, I beg to lay the Bengal Speci Powers Ordinance, 1946.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I beg to move a resolutio expressing disapproval of the Ordinance.

The Bengal Special Powers (Amendment) Ordinance, 1946.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, under section 88(2)(a of the Government of India Act, 1935, I beg to lay the Bengal Speci Powers (Amendment) Ordinance, 1946.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I beg to move a resolutio expressing disapproval of the Ordinance.

The Bengal Special Powers (Amendment) Ordinance, 1947.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, under section 88(2)(a of the Government of India Act, 1935, I beg to lay the Bengal Speci Powers (Amendment) Ordinance, 1947.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I beg to move a resolutio expressing disapproval of the Ordinance.

The Bengal Civic Guards and Collective Fines Continuance Ordinance, 1946

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, under section 88(2)(a) of the Government of India Act, 1935, I beg to lay the Bengal Civic Guard and Collective Fines Continuance Ordinance, 1946.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I beg to move a resolution ressing disapproval of the Ordinance.

The Bengal Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I beg to lay the amendments he Bengal Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, you have ask- me to cite a precedent. Three Ordinances were laid before the Assembly the 27th November, 1939. Thereupon the Opposition wanted to discuss m on a separate day by way of a motion under section 88 of the Govern- ıt of India Act, 1935. Thereupon the Speaker said, "I take it therefore t the Opposition wants to exercise the right which they have got under ion 88(2)(*a*) of giving notice of resolutions in connection with it. Well, uch resolutions come, I will fix a certain amount of time, say, three or r days," and he allotted three days for discussion of the three Ordinances that discussion took place some time in December. On the same logy you should allot thirteen days for the discussion of these Ordinances ing the course of the Budget session.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: In view of the fact that these matters very controversial I suggest that these matters may be held over and adjournment motion taken up immediately.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think I can make matters short. So far he right to move a resolution is concerned, I have looked into the vant section and I think the honourable member is right. But so far notices are concerned, I have received only one notice and I think the ourable member will give further notices. If some days are to be fixed ın fix them, but I cannot at the present moment disturb the proceedings he House.

Mr. Roy, I have been informed by Secretary that tomorrow's list of iness is rather very light. Do you want this to be discussed tomorrow?

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Tomorrow is a non-official day and we have non-official Bills tomorrow.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That will not take more than half an hour.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: I shall reply to that after consulting my nds.

Adjournment Motion.

Mr. HARAN CHANDRA GHOSH CHOWDHURY: Mr. Deputy aker, Sir, I move that this Assembly do adjourn its business to discuss efinite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, ıely, the situation created by the failure of the Government to prevent ıass uprising of the Muslims of Noakhali and Tippera resulting in (1) ible conversion of Hindus *en masse* of some portions of Noakhali and pera, (2) mass abduction of the women of the minority community, (3) ible marriage of a large number of Hindu women and girls by the ority community, (4) murders of a large number of people of the ority community, (5) destruction of a large number of houses and perties of the minority community by loot, arson, etc., and (6) desecra- of temples and objects of worship *en masse*.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after the Calcutta disturbances in August , the tension of communal feeling in Eastern Bengal districts rose very h and in the district of Noakhali it reach its climax. There was a dency towards lawlessness in general. Hindus of the district who form

a small minority and who were living in a scattered manner, isolated fr one another surrounded by hundreds of Muslim families, felt absolut helpless and insecure and apprehended danger every moment from the row elements of the majority community. The great killing in Calcutta w attributed by the League leaders to the Hindus which naturally inflamed t Muslims. Further, exaggerated newspaper reports about Calcutta incide and spreading of utterly false and unfounded rumours deliberately plann and engineered by a set of mischief-mongers including the designi supporters of the League still more aggravated the situation.

On the 29th August last, which was the "Id" day, the designing m and mischief-mongers spread throughout the district a false and flying rep to the effect that the Hindus stealthily imported Sikhs and arms and k them concealed in some important houses though not one was ever fou All these rumours spread throughout the districts with electric rapidi These designing men further seized the opportunity of "Id" congregatic in many parts of the district and openly incited the illiterate masses violence. At this, the infuriated mobs armed with deadly weapons raid many Hindu houses and places of worship, killed some, assaulted a injured many more, looted some houses, shops and bazars in different ar of the district and subjected the Hindus to various forms of oppression a indignities. Idols and temples were broken or desecrated. Cases of conv sion and attempt at conversion were also reported. Extortion of mon from the terror-striken Hindus in the name of subscription for the Musl League became a common factor. Journey by road and boat beca difficult. All business was at a standstill due to uncertainty of the sit tion. In many cases, Hindus did not dare lodge any complaint with t police for fear of further oppression and harassment and some were actua harassed and assaulted. Often for the same reason statements made reports submitted by the Hindus were withdrawn or contradicted. Tl was the state of affairs in the first week of September last.

Pir Golam Sarwar Sahib of Shyampur, police-station Ramganj, was then opposed to the Muslim League and who actually opposed *ha* in his area on the 16th August last joined the Muslim League about first week of September. Soon after this, big public meetings attended thousands of Mussalmans were held in many places in the Ramganj tha and its neighbouring areas. These were reported to have been addres by the Pir Sahib generally and often by Maulvi Abdul Kasem of Gopairb The audience in these meetings were exhorted to take revenge of the cutta incidents by robbing the Hindus of all they have, by ruining the ri by removing the educated and intelligent leading men from the face of earth so that those who would be left behind would either be absorbed their own society or live a life at their dictation and Pakistan would t be an accomplished fact. The police officers were also threatened if t reported otherwise than what was given by him for report. This state things continued for days together unchecked. Reports of these meeti were sent to the Superintendent of Police and other high officials from m of the places of the district.

The district authorities were further approached often by the respecta and important citizens of the town and informed of the general situat and often of particular incidents taking place in the far off mofussil a of the district, and specially of the activities and provocative speeches the organisers and speakers of these meetings, but no effective steps w taken to prevent their mischievous activities. I hastened to rush to s of the places of occurrence in the district and saw the District Magist and the Superintendent of Police later on the 12th of September last placed before them reports of some of the incidents in mofussil areas the district and suggested among other things posting of armed pickets important centres and armed patrol parties to move round villages at reg

intervals, prohibition of such public meetings and processions and carrying of offensive weapons, etc. I further informed the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police of the apprehension of serious trouble by the Hindus during the Pujas.

While agreeing with the suggestions the District Magistrate informed me that in spite of repeated requisitions he could not secure additional forces for the district. The Superintendent of Police, Mr. Abdullah, however thought otherwise. Though welcoming contact and suggestions, whenever possible for me, he argued with me and minimised the whole situation telling me all the while that there was nothing wrong in the district beyond panic and excitement. According to him the people of Noakhali behaved themselves in a very decent manner up till then. He told me however of having received two reports of provocative speeches delivered by the Pir Sahib of Shyampur up to that time and intended to meet him in a day or two.

What transpired in their meeting at Pir Sahib's house later is not known to the public. But the Pir Sahib and his lieutenants went on with their activities more vigorously. When the Superintendent of Police met the Muslim population of Sahapur, Karpara, Lamchar and the other adjacent villages in a huge gathering the same day, many Hindus approached him with their grievances and asked for armed patrols, but the Superintendent of Police waived away all arguments remarking that everything they said was inference and imagination. As a sequel to these speeches and activities of the organisers of the meetings and inaction of the police, the miscreants and the hooligans were encouraged to go on with their depredations with redoubled energy.

I tried to draw the attention of the Government and the members of the Assembly to the serious matter during the last Budget Session by a cut motion on the Police Grant on the 23rd September last. No notice of this however was taken even after warning.

Meanwhile the Pujas came near. Almost all the boats carrying Hindu passengers from Chandpur, Hajiganj and Sonaimuri and other railway stations which passed through Ramganj thana area were thoroughly searched at Chatkhil, Kochua, Sahapur and other places and their contents looted. Sometimes ornaments from the person of the women passengers were snatched away. Often boatmen were forced to make the Hindu passengers get down from their boats. As these incidents took place shortly before the Pujas, the hoolgans got many valuable articles, clothings, ornaments and money which the Hindu passengers carried with them. During this period some dacoities were committed in Hindu houses in different parts of the district. The images of the Goddess Durga in some places were broken and buffaloes were butchered near mosques and other places.

The following are only a few of the incidents that took place after the 29th August and before the 10th October last:

Debi Prasanna Guha of Babupur was murdered on the "Id" day and the Congress office in front of his house was burnt to ashes; one of his brothers and a servant were also assaulted.

While fishing in the Feni river a group of fishermen were attacked with deadly weapons resulting in the death of one and serious injuries to two others.

Chandra Kumar Karmakar of Monpura, found missing from the "Id" day while proceeding to Amarpur, was murdered near Jamalpur.

Jamini Dey, a servant of the hotel while proceeding to Ghoshbag on the "Id" day, was murdered on the way. A dead body in a decomposed condition with his clothes was found later.

Nine fishermen of Charuriah less than a mile off from the town were seriously assaulted by deadly weapons. Seven of them were admitted into hospital. They were prevented from coming out and lodging any complaint with the police.

Shops of Kamini Kumar Paul and Jadav Chandra Saha were looted at Chandraganj and Jadav Chandra Saha was beaten.

Hindu shops of Koresh Munshi Hat in Feni subdivision were looted.

Three boats full of clothes were looted at Bholakot.

Temple of the family deity of Harendra Ghose of Raipur was desecrated by butchering a calf and throwing the same inside the temple.

Shiba Temple of Dr. Jadunath Majumdar of Chandipur was similarly desecrated.

Family deities of Nagendra Majumder and Rajkumar Choudhury of Dadpur were similarly desecrated and stolen.

Many Hindu shops and two pharmacies of Kankirhat were looted.

All the properties of some 6 and 7 families of Kanur Char were looted.

A gang armed with deadly weapons entered the house of Jadav Mojumdar of Karpara, assaulted Nakul Mojumdar and looted properties worth Rs. 1,500.

Hindu shop-keepers of Tajmohommad Hat were victimised and driven away.

Some Hindu shops of Shahapur Bazar were looted.

Ashu Sen of Debisingpur was severely beaten near Tajumiarhat at Char Parbati.

House of Sj. Prasanna Mohan Chakravorty, B.L., at Tatarkhil was looted and Durga image was broken, buffalo butchered.

Rajkumar Choudhury of Banspara was brutally assaulted on his way home.

Durga images of Sj. Iswar Chandra Pathak, Kethuri, Sj. Kedareswar Chakraborty of Merkachar and Sj. Ananta Kumar De of Angrapara were also broken.

Houses of Nabin Chandra Nath of Miralipur and of Radhacharan Nath of Latipur were raided. Nobin Chandra and Radha Charan including five members of his family were injured.

Shop of Subal Chandra Banik of Nandanpur was looted at Sonapur Bazar.

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I rise on a point of order. The adjournment motion must refer to incidents of recent origin and of public interest. My friend on the other side is referring to incidents which took place in August and September. No one deplores more than we do on this side of the House all that may have taken place in Noakhali, but that is no reason why controversies which have been buried in the past should now be raked up. The only thing that can be discussed today is the position of the people, both Hindus and Muslims, in Noakhali, and we are prepared here to tell the House what is happening to the Muslims of Noakhali at the present moment.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am afraid it is no point of order raised by the honourable member. Besides it is too late now to raise the point. So far as the question of consent is concerned, the Hon'ble Speaker gave his consent and formalities have been gone through before the adjournment motion had been moved. I do not think this question, as raised by Mr. Fazlul Huq, arises now.

Mr. HARAN CHANDRA GHOSH CHOWDHURY: On 1st October 1946, about two thousand Muslim mob surrounded the houses of Hindu leading men of Sandwip town, viz., Sj. Rajendra Kumar Nag, Debendra Kumar Nag, Sarada Kanta Banerjee and Jogesh Chandra Banerjee and got signatures forcibly on a piece of paper purporting that they would never perform the Durga Puja in the local Kalibari in future. At this very late hour when almost every boat passing through Ramganj was looted, the Superintendent of Police issued an appeal and warning to the public on the 7th October last, to the effect that if they circulate rumours, carry on goondaism and loot, etc., no good to anybody would come out of it. They were asked to inform the Police about the goondas, otherwise collective fines might be imposed and leaders might be asked to serve as Special Police Officers. Though the order was dated the 7th October, printed copies of the same did not reach the people before the organised riot at all. Beyond issuing notice what active steps were taken by the Superintendent of Police are not known to us. The whole situation of course was gradually worsening and heading towards a crisis.

Then came the fateful day 10th of October, the Lakshmi Puja Day. This day a big meeting was held at the Sahapur High English School ground which was attended by about fifteen thousand Musalmans. They were exhorted by the Pir Sahib to attack the *kutchery bari* of Babu Surendra Nath Bose, Zemindar, Narayanpur, and house of Rai Sahib Rajendra Lal Roy Chowdhury of Karapra, loot their properties, murder them and present their heads to him. Immediately after this the mob burnt down the Hindu shops at the Sahapur Bazar in front of Sub-Inspector of Police who was present all the time. After this the mob proceeded to Narayanpur Kutchery with deadly weapons and surrounded and set fire to it. When the double-storeyed house was in flames Surendra Babu jumped down from the first floor and fell before the Muslim mass who immediately cut him to pieces, and threw them into the flames and are reported to have presented the head to the Pir Sahib who was waiting at a distance. Some of his attendants shared the same fate.

Telegraphic messages informing the activities of the masses were sent to the Superintendent of Police and other high officials of the district. Representative men from several parts of the district saw the Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate and sought immediate protection and Police help. But the Superintendent of Police disbelieved many of them and told them that the report of murder of Suren Babu was a pure myth.

Even on the night of the 11th October the Superintendent of Police disbelieved the story of a midnight loot at a village near Duttapara where his own car was also blocked about an hour afterwards. He was the type of a high official of the district to whom the Hindus had to seek for protection of their lives and properties!

Next day, in the morning, when Rajendra Babu and his family were taking the morning tea a gang of about two hundred attacked their house, but was repulsed with difficulty. Rajen Babu informed the Ramganj Police of the explosive situation and sought police help. The District authorities were also telegraphically informed but no help was to be had. In the afternoon several thousands of Musalmans armed with guns and deadly weapons and led by some ex-soldiers who had military uniforms on fell upon his house for the second time, looted their properties and set fire to the corrugated tin houses. Meanwhile all the inmates of this house and the neighbouring houses took shelter in his building for their lives.

(At this stage the honourable member reached his time-limit but was allowed to continue.)

After the destruction of the houses Rajendra Babu's building was set on fire with petrol. At this the inmates climbed upon the roof. Taking

advantage of this the hooligans fired a few shots. The inmates saved themselves by going behind the garret. A few minutes afterwards a portion of the roof collapsed and some went under the debris and lost their lives. Meanwhile the hooligans devised a way to get upon the roof by felling down a high cocoanut tree and using the same as a ladder. One by one the male inmates were brought down and mercilessly butchered on the spot. The female inmates were brought down and cordoned off and taken to the Pir Sahib who was waiting in a boat at a distance. He ordered them to be taken to some other house. Heads of Rajendra Babu and some others were reported to have been presented to Pir Sahib. Thirty-four persons including about half a dozen unknown figures were killed on the spot. Similar incidents took place in other places in the district. From this quarter as centre, the organised fury of the Muslim mob broke out in a violent form and spread in all directions to the other parts of the Ramganj thana, and neighbouring thanas, namely, Raipur, Lakshmipur, Begamganj and Sandwip in the Noakhali district, Faridganj, Hajiganj, Chandpur, Laksham and Chauddagram in the Tippera district.....

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: On a point of order, Sir. I think he has been given 15 minutes' time. That time is over, and I do not think the Deputy Speaker is right in extending the time.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: There is no power, no authority to extend the time.

(The honourable member having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. ABUL HASHIM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me tell you at the outset that I have been called upon today to speak on a very delicate subject. I wish discussion was not raised now. So far as the Hindu minorities are concerned, everything is quiet at Noakhali and Tippera. (Cries of "question" from Opposition benches.) This discussion now reminds us of that sad incident and bitterness which had taken place there. No one deplores the incident more than we do and I take this opportunity to convey our sincerest sympathy and concern for the actual sufferers of Noakhali and Tippera, irrespective of caste, creed or colour. I was informed over the telephone this morning that there was a motion of adjournment on the Noakhali situation. My first impression was that some of our Muslim friends in those districts who today actually represent the sufferers have tabled the motion for discussion, but to my utter surprise—and I may say—deep shock I was told that this motion was tabled by my friends on the Opposition. If I can give expression to my feelings with your permission, Sir, considering what are happening there now, so far as the Hindus are concerned—what sense of security they have already developed, what protection they have already got in those districts. I think that our friends of the Opposition and their representative who has actually moved the motion are at the height of ingratitude when he moves this motion. Having carefully examined the circumstances under which the incidents broke out I can definitely assert that at the outbreak neither the Government nor the Muslims as such had any control over the circumstances nor could they foresee what was going to happen in Noakhali. My friends of the Opposition seem to have very conveniently forgotten the genesis of these sad incidents. I may remind them now. The whole situation was created by an indiscreet act of Babu Lakshmikanta Mazumdar of village Panchgaon, a big Hindu zamindar of Noakhali.....(A VOICE FROM THE OPPOSITION: Question!) This gentleman imported from outside a large number of Sikh and Hindusthani darwans. These darwans were committing atrocities on innocent Muslims assembled in the local bazars owned by this zamindar. To protest against the action and misdeeds of the Sikh and Hindusthani darwans the Muslim tenants of the zamindar came to the zamindar's house.

But instead of getting justice and fairness from him the gates were closed and these innocent Muslims got bullets and on the spot half-a-dozen Muslims were killed. This led to the outbreak of which my friends of the Opposition are now talking so much.

Now, another thing. My friends on the Opposition very conveniently forget that the Muslim who led the reprisals is a well-known figure in Bengal—Mr. Golam Sarwar Hoseni. My friends forget that this gentleman is a non-League Muslim and neither the local Muslims nor the Muslims of Bengal had anything to do with him. This gentleman was set up as a Congress-supported candidate against the Muslim League. So we may take it that he was a friend of the members of the Opposition who are talking so much of the incidents in Noakhali.

Next, I admit that some atrocities were committed: some damages were done to life and property but not exactly what the monstrous Press of Hindu Bengal represented to the world. Here my friend who moved the motion has placed before us an exhaustive list of alleged damages done to life and property and honour of the Hindus. He gives a list as to how many were killed, looted, raped, abducted and converted. So far as rape is concerned I with all the emphasis that I can command refute the charge. It is a falsehood maliciously manufactured according to the vagaries of the interested people. I know there were some murders, loot and arson but not exactly that which are stated by our friends. This aspect of the question for the time being our friends from Noakhali will deal elaborately.

Now, I may say a few words about the adjournment itself. This reminds me of incidents that had taken place in Bihar and the kind of protection that the Bihar Muslims got from the Congress Ministry there.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: On a point of order, Sir. My point of order is that it is not within the competence of this House to bring into question the action taken by another Government. I demand a ruling from you, Sir. I think that point of order was raised in the other House and a ruling was given there.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sinha, he is finishing.

Mr. ABDUL HASHEM: The Government of Bengal has done all that could be done to give protection to the Hindu sufferers of Noakhali (A VOICE FROM THE OPPOSITION: Question!).....and create a sense of security in them and I can also tell you.....(At this stage the member reached his time-limit but was allowed to conclude his speech) that the information that I have got is that the Hindus have got back that sense of security. Let me also say that in all fairness and honesty this Government gave protection to the Hindus even at a cost of personal insecurity to their own people and therefore they should have brought a motion of congratulation on the Hon'ble the Chief Minister. But when they have brought a motion of adjournment to disgrace the Government, I repeat and close with this remark that it is a height of ingratitude on their part to bring in this motion.

Mr. JOGENDRA CHANDRA DAS: মিঃ ডেপুটী স্পীকার, স্যার, গত অক্টোবর মাসে ত্রিপুরা জিলার চাঁদপুর, হাজিগঞ্জ, ফরিদগঞ্জ, লাকসাম ও চৌদ্দগ্রাম থানার সংখ্যালঘিষ্ঠ হিন্দুদের উপর সংখ্যাগরিষ্ঠ মুসলমান সম্প্রদায় যে অমানুষিক অত্যাচার অবিচার করিয়াছে, এইরূপ ঘটনা জগতের ইতিহাসে বিরল, হিন্দুদের সম্পত্তি লুণ্ঠন ও শত শত গৃহ অগ্নি সংযোগে ভস্মিভূত করিয়াছে। হিন্দুদিগকে স্ত্রী পুরুষ নির্বিশেষে মারপিট ও নানাবিধ অমানুষিক অত্যাচার করিয়া ধর্ম্মান্তর গ্রহণ করিতে বাধ্য করিয়াছে এবং বলপূর্ব্বক তাহাদের মাথায় পাকিস্থান মার্কা টুপি পরাইয়া দিয়াছে। শত শত হিন্দু নারীর উপর মুসলমান গুণ্ডাগণ পাশবিক অত্যাচার করিয়াছে এবং বহু নারীকে বলপূর্ব্বক হরণ করিয়া নিয়াছে, সধবা স্ত্রীলোকদের হাতের শাঁখা বলপূর্ব্বক ভাঙ্গিয়া দিয়াছে ও কপালের সিন্দুর দুর্ব্বৃত্তগণ পায়ে মুছিয়া নিয়াছে এবং স্ত্রী পুরুষ নির্বিশেষে নিরপরাধ হিন্দুদিগকে ধর্ম্মান্তর গ্রহণ করিতে অনিচ্ছা প্রকাশ করিলেই নির্ম্মমভাবে হত্যা করা হইয়াছে। হিন্দুদের বিগ্রহ ভাঙ্গিয়া ফেলিয়াছে এবং দেবালয় পোড়াইয়া নষ্ট করিয়াছে ও হিন্দুদের দোকান লুট করিয়া ও পোড়াইয়া কোটী কোটী টাকা ক্ষতি করিয়াছে।

১৩ই অক্টোবর চাঁদপুর মহকুমায় প্রথম আক্রমণ হয়, এবং হাজিগঞ্জ থানার ধামরা, আসাতলী, রাগই, সোরসাপ ত্যাদি গ্রামে আক্রমণের সংবাদ পাইয়া, আমি সেইদিনই স্থানীয় সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীদিগকে জানাই কিন্তু আমার ানান সত্ত্বেও স্থানীয় কর্ম্মচারীরা কোন প্রকার protectionএর ব্যবস্থা না করিতে পারায় আমি প্রধান-মন্ত্রী হোদয়ের নিকট ঘটনার কথা উল্লেখ করিয়া আমাদের রক্ষার ব্যবস্থার জন্য এক জরুরী telegram করিয়া-ছলাম। স্যার, আমি উক্ত telegramএর অবিকল নকল পাঠ করিতেছি—"Ruthless attack made on undreds of Hindus of Ramgunj thana, Noakhali and villages, Hajigunj thana, handpur, by thousands Muslims proceeding from Ramgunj area. Hundreds of ouses looted burnt and several casualties reported. Further depredation is eing carried on in Chandpur villages. Situation most terrible. Implore mmediate protection. Pray proceed to area—Jogendra Das, M. L. A." কিন্তু ঃখের বিষয় তিনি এই telegramএর কোন reply দেন নাই। এই telegram দেওয়ার পর মাননীয় ধান-মন্ত্রী মহোদয় জনসাধারণের ধনসম্পত্তি ও মান সম্মান রক্ষার কোন প্রকার ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন বলিয়া ামরা বিশ্বাস কবিতে পারি না। কারণ ১৩ই অক্টোবর হইতে প্রায় মাসাধিককাল ধরিয়া গৃহদাহ, লুটতরাজ, ারী ধর্ষণ ইত্যাদি নির্ম্মমভাবেই চলিতে থাকে। ১৫ই অক্টোবর হইতে চাঁদপুব থানার অন্তর্গত হাইমচর, রসোলাদি, গাজিপুর, মনিপুব, চরহাসাদি, চবভাঙ্গা ইত্যাদি গ্রামগুলিতে হাজার হাজার মুসলমান দলবদ্ধভাবে াক্রমণ কবে—তাহারা "লড়কে লেঙ্গে পাকিস্থান, মাবকে লেঙ্গে পাকিস্থান" ইত্যাদি ধ্বনি করিতে কবিতে নসাধারণের উপর আক্রমণ করে। তাহাদের প্রত্যেকেব হাতে মাবাত্মক অস্ত্রশস্ত্র ছিল এবং অনেকের হাতে ন্দুকও ছিল। ঐ অঞ্চলেব শতকরা ৯৫ জন বাসিন্দাই তপশীলভুক্ত সম্প্রদায়েব—নমঃশূদ্র, এবং কয়েকটা গ্রাম লিয়া তাহারা সংখ্যায় প্রায় ৩৫ হাজার। তাহাদের উপর নির্ম্মম অত্যাচাবের কাহিনী আপনারা সকলেই খবরের াগজের মাবফতে শুনেছেন। তাহারা দাঙ্গার ফলে গৃহহীন, বস্ত্রহীন, সর্ব্বস্বহারা হইয়াছে। এবং ঐ কয়েকটা ামের ১৯টী লোক ধর্ম্মান্তব গ্রহণে অনিচ্ছা প্রকাশ করায় তাহাদের নিষ্ঠুবভাবে হত্যা করা হইয়াছে। ঐ ঞ্চলে তিন দিন ব্যাপী গৃহদাহ, লুণ্ঠন, নারী হরণ, নাবী ধর্ষণ ইত্যাদি চলিতে থাকে। ঐ সমস্ত গ্রামগুলি াদপুর Headquarter হইতে ১০-১১ মাইলের ভিতব। ঘটনাব প্রাবম্ভেই আমরা সংবাদ পাইয়া থানা াফিসাব, মহকুমা হাকিম এবং জেলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটকে স্থানীয় অবস্থা জানাইয়া পুলিশ ও মিলিটাবী সাহায্য চাওয়া ত্ত্বেও তাহারা কোন প্রকার প্রতিকারের ব্যবস্থা করে নাই। সংবাদ পাওয়ার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে পুলিশ অথবা মিলিটাবীর ব্যবস্থা করিলে এইরূপ বীভৎস কাণ্ড ঘটিবার সম্ভাবনা অতি অল্পই ছিল। স্থানীয় কর্ত্তৃপক্ষ কোন rotectionএর ব্যবস্থা না করায় আমি ১৬ই অক্টোবর তারিখে মাননীয় প্রধান-মন্ত্রীর নিকট আবার telegram রি। ডেপুটী স্পীকার, স্যার, আমি উক্ত telegram আপনার নিকট পাঠ করিতেছি। "Inhuman ttack by Muslims on thousands of Hindus irrespective of Scheduled caste, Noakhali villages. Hajigunj, Chandpur, Faridgunj thana thousands of scheduled aste rendered homeless destitutes. Houses looted, burnt, forcible conversion, everal casualties reported. Most Namasudra houses—Himchar circle burnt. Apprehension spreading throughout districts. Situation most terrible pray mmediate protection. Proceed area—Jogendra Das., M. L. A." আমরা যখা সময় ানীয় officers ও মাননীয় প্রধান-মন্ত্রীর নিকট সমস্ত বিষয় information দেওয়া সত্ত্বেও গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাহার প্রতিকারমূলক কোন ব্যবস্থাই করেন নাই। আমি বিধ্বস্ত অঞ্চল পরিদর্শন করিয়া যাহা দেখিয়াছি তাহাতে ধারণা ইয়াছে যে হিন্দুদের প্রত্যেকটী পল্লীতে যেন atom bomb নিক্ষিপ্ত হইয়াছিল। ইহাও খুব লক্ষ করিবার বিষয় যে ত্রিপুরা জেলার বাসিন্দা—যাহাদের উপব অত্যাচার অবিচার করা হইয়াছে—তাহাদের অধিকাংশই দরিদ্র কৃষক ও মৎস্যজীবী। কৃষকের হালের গরু সমস্ত লুণ্ঠন করিয়াছে এবং হাল, বীজ ইত্যাদি পোড়াইয়া ভস্মীভূত করিয়াছে। ফরিদগঞ্জ থানার অন্তর্গত লামচর, চরমুগরা, মান্দারতলী, কাঁচিয়াড়া ইত্যাদি গ্রামসমূহের প্রায় ছয় সাত হাজার কৈবর্ত্ত মৎস্যজীবীর ঘরবাড়ী ও তাহাদের মাছ ধরিবার জাল পোড়াইয়া ফেলিয়াছে। শিক্ষিত ভূমিহীন মৎস্যজীবীদের একমাত্র অবলম্বন ছিল নৌকা ও জাল কিন্তু এই হাঙ্গামার ফলে তাহারা সর্ব্বহারা পথের ভিখারী।

ত্রিপুরা জেলার নানাস্থান হইতে অত্যাচারিত হইয়া হাজার হাজার স্ত্রী পুরুষ চাঁদপুর, কুমিল্লা, আগড়তলা, লিকাতা ইত্যাদি নানাস্থানে আশ্রয়কেন্দ্রে আশ্রয় নিয়াছিল। তাহাদের প্রতি বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে অবিচার করিয়া-ছন তাহা অবর্ণনীয়। দৈনিক প্রত্যেকের জন্য মাত্র চার ছটাক চাউল ব্যতীত আর অন্য কোন ব্যবস্থাই

করেন নাই। গভর্ণমেণ্টের কৃপায় অধিকাংশ ক্ষেত্রেই পচা দুর্গন্ধযুক্ত অথবা broken riceই তাহাদের জীবনধারণের একমাত্র উপায় ছিল। তাহার ফলে বিভিন্ন Relief Centreএ কলেরা ও নানাপ্রকার মারাত্মক রোগের সৃষ্টি হইয়াছিল এবং ফলে বহু লোকের মৃত্যুও সংঘটিত হইয়াছে।

গভর্ণমেণ্ট শান্তির বাণী উচ্চারণ করিয়া দুঃস্থ জনসাধারণের ঘর বাড়ী ও অন্যান্য জিনিষপত্রের ব্যবস্থা না করিয়াই সমস্ত Relief Centerগুলি বন্ধ করিয়া দিয়াছেন। Relief Centre হইতে বাড়ী ফিরিয়া গিয়া কোথায় দাঁড়াইবে গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাহা ভাবিয়াছেন কি না আমরা তাহা জানি না। আমরা জানিতে পারিলাম গভর্ণমেণ্ট, যাহাদের বাড়ীঘর পোড়ান হইয়াছে তাহাদের প্রত্যেকটী পরিবারের জন্য মাত্র ২০০৲ টাকা rehabilitation grantএর ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন।

এখানে আমি বলিতে চাই যে, যে কৃষকের হাল, গরু নষ্ট হইয়াছে এবং যে মৎস্যজীবীদের জাল, নৌকা পোড়াইয়া নষ্ট করা হইয়াছে ও যাহারা এখন সর্ব্বহারা তাহাদের পক্ষে মাত্র ২০০৲ চাষীর হাল, গরু, মৎস্যজীবীর নৌকা, জাল এবং গৃহের অন্যান্য আবশ্যকীয় জিনিষপত্র ক্রয় করিয়া ভবিষ্যৎ জীবনযাত্রা নির্ব্বাহের ব্যবস্থা করা সম্ভব কি না? পক্ষান্তরে এই ঘটনার ৩ মাসের মধ্যেও গভর্ণমেণ্ট দুঃস্থ মৎস্যজীবীদের সুতা বা জালের কোন ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই। চাষীদেরও হাল, গরু, বীজ ইত্যাদির কোন ব্যবস্থাই করেন নাই। আমরা জেনে আশ্চর্য্য হইলাম যে কেবলমাত্র যাহাদের ঘর বাড়ী পোড়ান হইয়াছে তাহাদিগের জন্যই ২০০৲ করিয়া rehabilitation grantএর ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন, কিন্তু যে সমস্ত পরিবারের হাজার হাজার টাকার ধন সম্পত্তি গুণ্ডারা লুঠ করিয়া লইয়াছে, একমাত্র ঘরের চালগুলো পোড়াবার বাকী আছে তাহাদের জন্য কোন প্রকার ব্যবস্থাই অবলম্বন করেন নাই।

স্যার, দুঃখের সহিত জানাইতেছি যে বঙ্গীয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট rehousingএর জন্য মাত্র ২৫০৲ প্রত্যেকটী পরিবারের জন্য sanction করিয়াছেন কিন্তু এই দাঙ্গার ফলে এক একটী পরিবারের হাজার হাজার টাকার ঘরবাড়ী নষ্ট হইয়াছে এবং বহু palatial buildingও ধ্বংসস্তূপে পরিণত হইয়াছে। বাঙ্গলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাহাদের পূর্ব্ববৎ re-establishment ব্যবস্থা না করিয়া, যাহা করিয়াছেন, তাহা অত্যন্ত নগণ্য। ব্যবসায়ীদের দোকানপাট লুঠ হওয়ায় তাহাদের লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকার ক্ষতি হইয়াছে তাহাদের compensation দিবার কোন ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই।

বাঙ্গলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট সংখ্যালঘু সম্প্রদায়ের ধনপ্রাণ ও নারীর মর্য্যাদা রক্ষা করিতে যেরূপ অক্ষমতার পরিচয় দিয়াছেন এইরূপ দৃষ্টান্ত কোন সুসভ্য দেশে বা সুসভ্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের আমলে হইয়াছে কি না তাহা কোন ইতিহাসের পাতায় পাওয়া যায় না। সংখ্যালঘু সম্প্রদায়ের ধনসম্পত্তি লুণ্ঠন, নরহত্যা ও নারীহরণ, নারী ধর্ষণ ইত্যাদি অপরাধের জন্য যাহাদের বিরুদ্ধে এজাহার দিয়াছে গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিষ্ক্রিয়তার জন্য বহুসংখ্যক আসামী এখন ঘুরে বেড়াচ্ছে, তাহাদের arrest করিবার ব্যবস্থায়ই বঙ্গীয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট করিতেছেন না, পক্ষান্তরে যে সমস্ত ব্যক্তিগণ নরহত্যা, নারী ধর্ষণ, লুণ্ঠন ইত্যাদি অপরাধে অপরাধী তাহারা কেহ ধৃত হইলেও সংখ্যাগরিষ্ঠ সম্প্রদায়ের ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট মাত্র ৫০৲ জামিনে তাহাদিগকে মুক্তি দিয়াছেন।

মাননীয় প্রধান-মন্ত্রীর নিকট বিভিন্ন ব্যক্তি বিশেষ ও বিভিন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে স্থানীয় অবস্থা পরিদর্শন করিবার জন্য বহু telegram করা সত্ত্বেও তিনি ত্রিপুরা জিলার affected areaতে এ পর্য্যন্ত পদার্পণ করেন নাই এবং দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের প্রতিনিধি হইয়াও তাহাদের দুরবস্থার কথা শোনা বা দেখা তিনি কর্ত্তব্য মনে করেন নাই।

স্থানীয় অবস্থা ও গভর্ণমেণ্টের কার্য্যকলাপ সমালোচনা করিলে স্পষ্টই প্রতীয়মান হয় যে এই দাঙ্গায় বাংলার মুসলিম লীগ গভর্ণমেণ্ট সংখ্যাগুরু সম্প্রদায়ের জিঘাংসাকে তৃপ্ত করার জন্য ব্যস্ত ছিলেন এবং বর্ত্তমানেও তাহাদের মনস্তুষ্টির জন্য নানাবিধ চেষ্টা করিতে ত্রুটি করিতেছেন না। এই প্রসঙ্গে আমি একটা কথা বিশেষ করে বলিতে চাই যে, গভর্ণমেণ্ট সংখ্যাগরিষ্ঠ সম্প্রদায়কে বা তথাকথিত মুসলিম লীগকে সন্তুষ্ট রাখার জন্য মুসলমান সম্প্রদায়ের যে সমস্ত গুণ্ডাগণ নরহত্যা, লুণ্ঠন, নারীধর্ষণ ইত্যাদি অপরাধের জন্য ধৃত অথবা absconding আছে তাহাদের পরিবারস্থ লোকদিগকে গভর্ণমেণ্ট Relief Centreএ লইয়া ভরণপোষণের ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন।

সংক্ষেপে বলিতে গেলে মুসলিম লীগের আওতার মধ্যে থাকিয়া তাহাদের নির্দ্দেশমত বাংলার মুসলিম লীগ গভর্ণমেণ্ট সংখ্যাধিক্যের জোরে সংখ্যালঘু সম্প্রদায়ের ধনপ্রাণ নিয়ে যে পুতুল খেলা খেলিতেছেন তাহা জগতের কাছে অত্যন্ত ঘৃণ্য ও নিন্দনীয়। আমি adjournment motion সমর্থন করি।

(The House was then adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Fazlul Huq.

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I am suffering from asthma. Let some other member on this side speak now.

Mr. MD. ABDUS SALAM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, reports of destruction of property, looting, arson, abduction, mass conversion, rape, forced marriage are either false or grossly exaggerated. There is not one single case of rape, abduction, or forced marriage in the district of Tipperah.

We know that not a single person out of the refugees in Chandpur and Comilla could point to a single scratch on his person. Many areas were not in the slightest bit affected and trouble was not even reported in the neighbourhood and yet the entire Hindu population evacuated. Assurances on the part of Muslims were misinterpreted.

We feel that the police force, consisting as it does, of mostly up-country Hindus is terribly biased and is conspiring with the Hindu public and imported goondas in the guise of volunteers to oppress Muslims. (Cries of "Question" from Opposition benches.) Already more than one thousand cases have been instituted against the police, the military and the Hindu volunteers. A statement showing some definite cases of military and police *zulum* will eloquently speak how the Hindu police are working in co-operation with the Hindus in their motive of exterminating the Muslims. Another motive of their oppression was to disturb and stop the paddy harvest. In a spirit of vengeance they are disturbing the normal tenure of life of the Muslims in rural areas.

With the sinister motives stated above the police are making indiscriminate arrests of Muslim men, women and children from houses, bazars, paddy fields and roads and on one occasion the police in co-operation with the local Hindus surrounded Mohammed Gunj Bazar in Haimchar Union, arrested about 500 Muslims, dragged them to the camp situated at a distance of three miles from the place of arrest, detained them for five hours and later released half of them. The motive behind this mass arrest is only to terrorise the peaceful villagers. Two *purdanashin* Muslim women were arrested in the same union in Charkoralia village, made to walk on foot three miles up to the camp in broad daylight and brought to Chandpur in a most humiliating way. This was done by one Nani Gopal Bhattacharjee, Sub-Inspector of Police, and Ranajit Bhowmik, Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police. Under the dictates of the latter one armed police committed rape on a Muslim woman in Hanerchar union, police-station Chandpur. All these were done by the Hindu police in a spirit of vengeance and by such activities they show their allegiance to the Hindu community although they draw their salaries from the public treasury.

Looted property from a Muslim shop was recovered, when searched, from the possession of two Hindu constables from the Chandpur thana compound.

Police officers responsible for the maintenance of peace and order in the district have been unfortunately showing pro-Hindu mentality. The Superintendent of Police of Tippera is indirectly helping the Hindus by placing Hindu officers-in-charge of almost all the police-stations who have introduced a reign of terror in the district of Tippera. The Officer-in-charge of Chandpur police-station is sending Hindu Sub-Inspectors to mufassal with the definite motive of arresting each and every Muslim and to harass them in all possible manners.

That all the warrants of arrest issued against the Hindu hooligans long before were returned after a month by the Hindu police on the false plea of the signature of the Magistrate issuing the warrants being illegible, although the same police are acquainted for the last two years with the same signature of the same Magistrate.

On the contrary Muslims are being arrested and produced before the court without F.I.R., without warrants and even without evidence.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope you will not kindly refer to the names of particular officers.

Mr. MD. ABDUS SALAM: All right, Sir. It is further reported that F.I.Rs. were prepared in the thana in consultation and with the help of the local Hindu leaders long after the arrests were made. In several cases, it is also reported that the Hindu police who have now got an absolute majority in the thana have themselves inserted names of innocent Muslims in the *ijahars* lodged by Hindus without mentioning any name.

As to the *zulum* of the military committed on the Muslims, it will suffice to say that the number of casualties in this subdivision from military and police firings is about thirty dead and about a hundred injured, all being Muslims on whom the Hindu police and non-Muslim military wreaked vengeance.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I rise to accord my strongest support to the motion moved by the honourable member representing the Noakhali Rural General Constituency. It is not possible to do justice to the subject-matter of the motion within the short time at my disposal. But let me say, Sir, that what has happened in Noakhali and Tippera cannot be characterised as mere lawlessness or ordinary communal rising. It has been said by the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy in the other House that it is a travesty of fact to say that the Muslim League was in it. I say that it is a travesty of facts to say that the Muslim League was not behind this general rising. I say that what has happened in Tippera and Noakhali is nothing but the result of a well-organised and well-conceived plan of the Government in power and the party behind it, the Muslim League, having an artificial majority in the Legislature—a brute majority as you may call it—to exterminate a section of the people in that part of the province. That is the background of the outbreak of these incidents.

Now, Sir, what are the facts? If you look to this background you will find that during the last few years the Muslim League had been, by a systematic use of their majority in the Legislature, trying to crush the minorities in the Province. It was based exactly on the Nazi model of exterminating a section of the people by use of Governmental power only with this difference that mass murder was not still included in its programme. But after the publication of the Cabinet Mission scheme, the Muslim League —that pampered child of British Imperialism—has been led to feel that any outrage and carnage that they committed will not only not go against them but, on the contrary, will bring them fresh gains. The Great Calcutta Killing paved their way to the Interim Government and the Noakhali incidents led to the British Government's Statement of December 6. That is the background of the Noakhali incidents. Sir, I shall not narrate to you in detail the gruesome incidents that took place in Noakhali. It is a monstrous distortion of facts, it is a travesty of facts to say that nothing of any great magnitude has happened in Noakhali. I wonder if that is what the honourable members of the Government party want us to swallow. Sir, I would only make a present to them of the statement made by one of the Ministers, namely, the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed, regarding the happenings in Noakhali. The Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed said in a speech at Choumuhani on 9th November, 1946, that never before in the history of India, not even during the Moghul Rule, such acts of oppression were committed. Sir, I am grateful to the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed for his straightforward statement. The Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed further remarked that it has been said that the Muslim raiyats retaliated on

the zamindars. If that be so, why then there were cases of forcible conversion? That question remains unanswered. If the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed is frank, let him confess that it was a part of the preconceived plan for securing a safer majority for a particular section of the people by exterminating or converting forcibly another section of the people in the province. And to this end an atrocious call was made by Mr. Ghaznafar Ali upon the Hindus to accept Islam.

Then, Sir, what about the oppression on women? Mr. Suhrawardy has said that there has not been any oppression on women or any rape in Noakhali and Tippera. I ask him to publish the reports submitted by Mr. Simpson and Mr. R. Gupta and then deny the facts asserted by these two officers.

Well, Sir, the time at my disposal is very short. I will try to refer to what the Government of Bengal had actually done after the storm had burst. It is astonishing that a reference has been made to Bihar. I think no reference can be made to Bihar. But if any reference has to be made, it should be remembered by my friends over there what a wonderful effect the visit of Pandit Nehru over the affected area produced. He did not mince matters and went so far as to threaten aerial bombing if the riots did not stop at once. Has there been any such parallel thing in Bengal? Instead, it has been the intention of the Hon'ble Ministers and Government officers to minimise the enormity of the outrage and the gravity of the situation from the very beginning. I quote from Mr. Suhrawardy's speech that he delivered at Ramganj on the 17th November, 1946, to a gathering of Muslims only. Did he not say that—

"আমি শুনে দুঃখিত হলাম যে আপনাদের উপর অত্যাচার হচ্ছে। আমি এখানে এসেছি আপনাদের সেই অত্যাচার হতে রক্ষা করতে। যারা আপনাদের অনিষ্ট করেছে তাদের শাস্তি দেব। ....."

Let him deny the charge that has been publicly made by Sreejut Chapalakanta Bhattacherjee, the Editor of the "Ananda Bazar Patrika", that instructions were given to the local telegraph offices not to send reports of this speech. That was the attitude that the Chief Minister took even when the situation was so grave and so outrageous.

Sir, I will not refer to any other matter. Let me say in conclusion that the incidents were so atrocious and the policy of the Bengal Government still more, that it is not humanly possible to discuss them in cold blood and within constitutional limits. The constitution has, in fact, broken down, and the Government that have resorted to such gangsterism are not a Government at all. It is this situation that led Sardar Patel to utter the historic words that the sword must be met by sword.

Sir, at the end of the debate on the No-confidence motion during the last session the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy said that so heinous a man as could utilise the powers of his office to wage a war of extermination against a section of the people was yet to be born. If that was true at that time, it remained no longer true after the Noakhali incidents. Sir, my time is up, but I would in conclusion like to remind the Government that every tale has a lesson and the lesson of this tale is that it will ultimately pay to become more reasonable before a revolution makes a clean and frightful sweep of Nazi gangsterism.

✓**Maulvi MAJIBAR RAHMAN:** মিঃ ডেপুটি স্পীকার, স্যার, আমি প্রথমেই বলবো আমার বন্ধু হারাণ বাবু যিনি Adjournment motion উপস্থিত করেছেন তিনি disturbancesএর কিছুদিন আগে থেকে প্রায় এক মাস, দেড় মাস নোয়াখালীর ত্রিসীমানায় ছিলেন না। আজকে তিনি এই বিবৃতি তৈরী করেছেন আমার বোধ হয় কলকাতায় বসে আনন্দবাজার বা বসুমতী পত্রিকা পড়ে। তিনি যা এখানে বিবৃত করেছেন সত্যের সঙ্গে তার কোন সংশ্রব আছে বলে আমার মনে হয় না। অক্টোবর মাসের ১০ই তারিখে নোয়াখালীতে গোলমাল আরম্ভ হয়। আমি আপনাদের অবগতির জন্য নিবেদন করছি নোয়াখালীতে মুসলীম লীগ, কংগ্রেস, কমিউনিষ্ট পার্টি এবং হিন্দু মহাসভা সর্বদলীয় শান্তি কমিটি গঠিত হয়, এবং উক্ত কমিটিতে আমি নিজে

একজন বেয়র ছিলাম। সারা জেলায় যাতে কলকাতার repurcussion, কলকাতার প্রতিধ্বনি না হয় সেজন্য আমরা আপ্রাণ চেষ্টা করেছিলাম। কিন্তু দুর্ভাগ্যবশতঃ আমাদের কতক হিন্দু বন্ধু কলকাতা থেকে বিভিন্ন জায়গা থেকে--শিখ এবং অন্যান্য গুণ্ডা আমদানী করে নোয়াখালীতে panic সৃষ্টি করেন এবং সেই সঙ্গে সঙ্গে অনেকগুলি থানায় মামলা রুজু করা হয়। আমি নিবেদন করছি সর্বদলীয় চেষ্টায় যেখানে শান্তি ও শৃঙ্খলা অব্যাহত ছিল সেখানে বাহির থেকে সন্ন্যাসী, শিখ এবং গুণ্ডা লাগিয়ে রামগঞ্জের মুসলমানদিগকে উত্তেজিত ক'রে দাঙ্গা বাধান হয়।

Mr. BEPIN BEHARI GANGULI : আপনি বুকে হাত দিয়ে একথা বলছেন ত?

Maulvi MAJIBAR RAHMAN: হ্যাঁ সত্য কথা বলছি। আপনারা আমার কথা বিশ্বাস করবেন কিনা তা জানি না তবে বাহির থেকে লোক নিয়ে গিয়ে নোয়াখালীতে যে হাঙ্গামা বাধান হয়েছিল তাতে একশ, সোয়াশ বা দেড়শ লোকের বেশী মারা যায়নি। আনন্দবাজার, বসুমতী পত্রিকায় কামিনী বাবুর মত লোকের ৫ হাজার ১০ হাজার লোকের মৃত্যু, mass massacre প্রভৃতি বিবৃতি যেমনভাবে সত্য, আজ হারাণ বাবুর বিবৃতিও তেমনই ভাবে সত্য। কামিনী বাবুর বিবৃতি সারা বাংলা কেন ভারতবর্ষে যে উত্তেজনা সৃষ্টি করেছে তা কারো অজানা নাই। আমরা জানি নোয়াখালী জেলায় আমরা সংখ্যাগরিষ্ঠ। বিভিন্ন জায়গায় দাঙ্গা হাঙ্গামার দরুণ এবং সংবাদ-পত্রে উত্তেজনা সৃষ্টির জন্য নোয়াখালীতে হাঙ্গামা হয়েছে। আমাদের হিন্দু ভাইরা উপদ্রুত ও লাঞ্ছিত খানিকটা হয়েছেন। সেজন্য আমরা আন্তরিক দুঃখিত। আমরা তাদের সেবা শুশ্রূষা আগাগোড়া করেছি এবং বরাবরই করতে প্রস্তুত। আপনারা নোয়াখালীবাসী যাঁহারা উপদ্রুত তাঁহাদিগকে জিজ্ঞাসা করলে জানতে পারবেন নোয়াখালী জেলা মুসলিম লীগ এবং নোয়াখালী জেলায় বিভিন্ন স্থানের মুসলিম লীগ কর্মীরা এই হাঙ্গামার আগে থেকে এবং হাঙ্গামা আরম্ভ হওয়ার পর থেকে আপ্রাণ চেষ্টা করেছে যাতে দাঙ্গা হাঙ্গামা না হয়, হিন্দুদের প্রতি অবিচার না হয় এবং শান্তি ফিরে আসে। আমরা বাস্তবিক চেষ্টা করেছি কিন্তু দুর্ভাগ্য আমাদের যখন ডক্টর শ্যামাপ্রসাদ নোয়াখালী পেঁৗছিলেন, যখন কংগ্রেস প্রেসিডেণ্ট আচার্য্য কৃপালনী নোয়াখালীতে উপস্থিত হলেন, যখন বাহির থেকে volunteer গিয়ে নোয়াখালী পেঁৗছল তখন তাঁদের slogan, তাঁদের কথা, তাঁদের সমস্ত ইতিহাসটা বদলে গেল। সুতরাং ব্যক্তিবিশেষ নয়, রামগঞ্জের কোন দুষ্ট লোক নয় কিন্তু এই মুসলিম লীগের লোক, এই মজিবর রহমান ও তার মত লোক দাঙ্গা বাধিয়েছে। কিন্তু কোন স্থানীয় হিন্দু একথা বলেনি, যারা অত্যাচারিত তারা বলেনি। এটা শুধ বাহিরের propaganda, কংগ্রেসের propaganda, হিন্দু মহাসভার propaganda. তাঁহারা আজ সারা নোয়াখালী এবং ত্রিপুরা কেন সারা বাংলার আকাশ-বাতাস দূষিত করছেন। মিথ্যা সংবাদ প্রচার দ্বারা এবং হিন্দু মুসলমানের সহৃদয়তা সদ্ভাব এবং শান্তিকে তিক্ততায় পরিণত করছেন। আমি অনুরোধ করব তাঁহারা যেন এমনভাবে মিথ্যা প্রচার দ্বারা জগৎকে আর না ভুলাতে চেষ্টা করেন। আর একটা কথা বলে আমি শেষ করব। এখন নীল বাতি জ্বলেছে, তারপর লাল বাতি জ্বলবে। ১০ই অক্টোবর তারিখে ঘটনা হয়েছিল। ১৩ই অক্টোবর তারিখে military call করা হয়েছিল।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your time is over.

Maulvi MAJIBAR RAHMAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, will you kindly allow me two minutes' time? ১৫ই অক্টোবর তারিখে Civil Supply Minister নোয়াখালী গিয়েছিলেন। ১৬ই অক্টোবর তারিখে হিন্দু মুসলমান একত্র হ'য়ে শান্তি রক্ষার আবেদন করে বহু স্থান ঘুরেছেন—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your time is over.

Maulvi MAJIBAR RAHMAN : আমাকে এক মিনিট সময় দিন, স্যার। এবং তারপর আর কোন disturbance বা ঘটনা হয়নি।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your time is up. Please sit down.

Maulvi MAJIBAR RAHMAN : One minute Sir, হিন্দু মুসলমানের চেষ্টায় বাস্তবিক শান্তি পুনঃ স্থাপিত হয়েছে। নোয়াখালীতে আর কোন গোলমাল নাই। আপনারা জানেন মহাত্মা গান্ধীর প্রতি কি সদ্ব্যবহার এই League Ministry দেখিয়েছেন। মাননীয় সোহ্‌রাওয়ার্দী সাহেব তাঁহার Private Secretary এবং তাঁহার মন্ত্রী মাননীয় শামসুদ্দীন সাহেব প্রভৃতিকে উপদ্রুত অঞ্চলে পাঠিয়েছেন। আজও তাঁরা রামগঞ্জের বিভিন্ন স্থানে ঘোরাফেরা করছেন। কিন্তু তবুও সহৃদয়তা, সত্যনিষ্ঠা কোন কিছুই কংগ্রেসের তরফ থেকে পাওয়া গেল না। আপনারা জানেন নোয়াখালীতে শান্তি ও শৃঙ্খলা আজও সম্পূর্ণ অব্যাহত। আপনাদের বলতে চাই যে সরকার পক্ষ থেকে কর্তব্যের অনেক বেশী করা হয়েছে।

Mrs. ASHALATA SEN : মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়, নোয়াখালী ত্রিপুরায় যা ঘটেছে সে সম্পর্কে অনেক আলোচনা হয়েছে, এখন আমি তার সব কথা পুনঃ উল্লেখ করতে চাই না। একটা বিষয় সকল সময় আমার মনকে গভীরভাবে ব্যথিত করছে, নোয়াখালীতে মেয়েদের উপর যে অত্যাচার হয়েছে—নারী জাতির উপর যে অত্যাচার হয়েছে সেটাই দিন রাত আমার মনে জাগছে। সে সম্বন্ধেই বলতে চাই।

(A voice from the Treasury Benches: বিহারের কথা মনে করুন।)

আমি কোন সাম্প্রদায়িক দলাদলির কথা বলতে আসি নাই, আমি বরাবর কংগ্রেসের কাজ করে এসেছি, চিরদিন বৃটিশ সাম্রাজ্যবাদের বিরুদ্ধেই বলে এসেছি। নিজের দেশবাসীর মধ্যে বিভেদ সৃষ্টি করে কথা বলবার অভ্যাস আমার নাই। কিন্তু আজকে যা বলতে হচ্ছে এটা যে কত বড় দুঃখের কথা তা বলবার নয়। আমরা চিরদিন বৃটিশ সাম্রাজ্যবাদের বিরুদ্ধে সংগ্রাম করে এসেছি আর এখন তার বদলে দুই দলে পরস্পর ভাইএর বিরুদ্ধে বিরোধিতা করছি এটা যে কত বড় কলঙ্কের কথা তা বলতে পারি না। তার ভিতর সবচেয়ে দুঃখের কথা বিভিন্ন দল বা সম্প্রদায়ের আমাদের পরস্পরের মধ্যে লড়াই মারামারি যতই হোক-না কেন নারী জাতি সকলের রক্ষণীয়া। নারী জাতি চিরদিন তাদের স্নেহশীল হৃদয় নিয়ে সকলকে পালন করে থাকে, তারা জাতি ধর্ম্ম নির্বিশেষে সকলের প্রতি স্নেহশীলা। আর আজ সেই নারী জাতির প্রতি নির্ম্মম অত্যাচার করা হচ্ছে। আমরা বাংলার ভিতর একদল আর এক দলের উপর দোষারূপ করছি, হিন্দু মুসলমানের বিরুদ্ধে মুসলমান হিন্দুর বিরুদ্ধে বলছি এতে দোষ কমে না, দোষ বেড়েই যায়। এখন কথা হচ্ছে এর ফলে আজ বাংলা দেশ কোথায় কত নীচুতে নেমে এসেছে। দুর্ভিক্ষ, মহামারী ও যুদ্ধে বহুভাবে মানুষের মৃত্যু হয়ে থাকে কিন্তু এ সাম্প্রদায়িক বিভেদে আমরা আজ দেখছি মনুষ্যত্বের মৃত্যু। আজ সেই দিকেই আমি আপনাদের বিশেষ করে দৃষ্টি দিতে অনুরোধ করছি। আমি নোয়াখালীতে, ত্রিপুরাতে মেয়েদের কথা জানবার জন্য তাদের কাছে ঘুরে ঘুরে রিলিফ সেণ্টারে তাদের দুঃখের কথা শুনেছি। আজকাল রাজনৈতিক ব্যাপার নিয়ে অনেক কিছু ঘটতে দেখা যায়, অনেকে সাম্প্রদায়িক ব্যাপার গোপন করবার চেষ্টা করেন, কিন্তু আমি আপনাদের বলছি দুষ্টক্ষত গোপন করলে তা জাতীয় জীবন ধ্বংস করে দেয়। নোয়াখালী ও ত্রিপুরাতে অপহৃতা নারীদের উপর নিষ্ঠুরভাবে পাশবিক অত্যাচার করা হয়েছে এবং তাদের সংখ্যা অনেক রকমে গোপন রাখবার চেষ্টা করা হয়েছে। কিন্তু দুষ্ট ব্যক্তি যারা তাদের দোষ গোপন করে তাদের শোধরান যায় না। আমাদের সম্প্রদায় নির্বিশেষে নিজেদের দোষগুলি সংশোধন করতে চেষ্টা করতে হবে। বিশেষ করে বাংলার হিন্দুরা কি কখন এটা বরদাস্ত করতে পারে? মাতৃজাতিকে স্নেহশীলা বলে চিরদিন বাংলার মেয়েদের যে সম্মান করা হয় আজ তাদের উপর অত্যাচারের কথা গোপন করবার প্রয়াস পাচ্ছেন যাঁরা তাঁরা মুসলমান হলেও অন্যায় করেছেন, আর হিন্দু হলেও তাঁদের পক্ষে অত্যন্ত ঘৃণার কথা কারণ, হিন্দুরা ধর্ম্মে ও আচরণে মাতৃজাতির সম্মান দেখাতে অভ্যস্ত, তাছাড়া আমি অনেক মুসলমানের বাড়ী গিয়েছি ও তাঁদের সম্বন্ধেও জানি তাঁরাও এটা বরদাস্ত করতে পারবেন না। নোয়াখালী আমার জন্মভূমি সেখানে আমি দেখেছি সংখ্যালঘু ও সংখ্যাগুরু সম্প্রদায় অনেক পুরুষ ধরে সেখানে বাস করছে, কিন্তু আজ হঠাৎ কেন এমন হোল যে সেখানে নারীদের উপরও এরূপ ঘৃণ্য অত্যাচার হোল। এ অত্যাচারের কথা তো কেউ অস্বীকার করতে পারি না। যারা এটা অস্বীকার বা গোপন করবার চেষ্ট করছেন বা দোষকে লঘু করে দেখাবার চেষ্টা করছেন তারা মনুষ্যত্বের বিরোধিতা করছেন এবং নিজেদেরই মেরুদণ্ড ভেঙ্গে দিচ্ছেন। নোয়াখালীতে ও ত্রিপুরাতে মেয়েদের উপর যে অত্যাচার হয়েছে জাতি-ধর্ম্ম নির্বিশেষে সকল সম্প্রদায়ের পক্ষ হতে তার প্রতিকার করা ও অপরাধীদের শাস্তির ব্যবস্থা করা দরকার এইটাই আমি বলছি।

Mr. HARI PADA CHATTERJEE : মাননীয় ডেপুটী স্পীকার মহোদয়, বাংলা সরকার এখানে অধিষ্ঠিত। বাংলার শাসন ব্যবস্থা আমরা এখান হতে করে থাকি। আমরা বাংলা সরকারের opposition সমালোচনা করি এবং সে হিসাবে সরকার যে কাজ করেন তার দায়িত্ব আমাদেরও।

আমরা বাংলা সরকার যে কাজ করছি তাতে দেশবাসী "ত্রাহি, ত্রাহি" আর্ত্তনাদ করছেন এবং কবে আমাদের কবল হতে মুক্তি পাবেন তাই কামনা করছেন। বহু ব্যাপারে বহু কীর্ত্তি আমরা রেখে গেলাম। নৌকা তৈরীর ব্যাপারে, খাদ্যশস্য অপচয়ের ব্যাপারে, মহামারী ও দুর্ভিক্ষ নিবারণের ব্যাপারে, সিভিল সাপ্লাইজ ডিপার্টমেণ্টের নানা ব্যাপারে জগতে বহু কীর্ত্তি আমরা দেখেছি। কিন্তু আইন ও শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষার ব্যাপারে যে অমর কীর্ত্তি রেখে গেলাম তা পৃথিবীর ইতিহাসে চিরদিন অতুলনীয় হয়ে থাকবে। আইন ও শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষার প্রথম নমুনা কলিকাতার গত দাঙ্গায় (Noise from the Treasury Bench.) চেঁচামেচি করবেন না, ধৈর্য্য ধরে শুনুন। মারামারি—মারামারি। কে আগে আরম্ভ করল--কলকাতার এ পাড়ায় কি হ'ল ও পাড়ায় কি হ'ল এ নিয়ে কিছু বলার নেই। হিন্দু কি মুসলমান, কার বেশী অন্যায় তা নিয়েও মাথা ঘামাই না। দীনতম ব্যক্তিকে পর্য্যন্ত

সর্বপ্রকার পীড়ন হতে--অত্যাচারী যত প্রবলই হক, তার অত্যাচার হতে রক্ষা করা--সকল সরকারের সর্বপ্রধান ও সর্বপ্রথম কর্ত্তব্য। সে কর্ত্তব্য আমরা পালন করতে পারিনি। অতঃপর নোয়াখালী ও ত্রিপুরায় যা ঘটেছে তাতে আমাদের সকলেরই লজ্জায় অধোবদন হওয়া উচিত। সাম্প্রদায়িক কলহ জাতির কলঙ্ক। নোয়াখালী ও ত্রিপুরায় যা ঘটল, বিহারে যা ঘটল, উত্তর পশ্চিম সীমান্ত প্রদেশে যা ঘটল, গড়মুক্তেশ্বরে যা ঘটল, তাতে আমাদের সমূহ অকল্যাণ হয়েছে। লাভ হয়েছে তৃতীয় পক্ষের। "ধরি মাছ না ছুঁই পানি" হয়ে অত্যন্ত কৌশলে তৃতীয় পক্ষ এদেশে সাম্প্রদায়িক বিষ ছড়ানর কাজে বদ্ধপরিকর হয়েছেন। Morley, Mintoর পত্রগুলি যাঁরাই পড়েছেন তাঁরাই জানেন সাম্প্রদায়িক বিষ ছড়ানর কাজে তৃতীয় পক্ষের উল্লাস ও উৎসাহ কতখানি। পৃথক নির্বাচন প্রথার টোপ যেদিন প্রথম তাঁরা গিলোতে পেরেছিলেন—তাঁদের command performance যেদিন প্রথম অভিনীত হয়েছিল সেদিন আনন্দের উচ্ছাস তাঁরা চাকতে পারেননি। আমাদের এই ব্যবস্থা পরিষদ ইংরাজের সৃষ্টি। জনসাধারণের সৃষ্টি গভর্ণমেণ্ট নয়। তথাপি যদি আমরা তৃতীয় পক্ষের মতলব ধরে ফেলি এবং সে সম্বন্ধে জনসাধারণকে সজাগ করি তাহ'লে এখানে থাকা আমাদের সার্থকতা হয়। হিন্দু মুসলমান আমরা এক তরীর আরোহী। মহা দুঃখ সাগরের পাড়ি যখন আমরা জমিয়ে এনেছি, স্বাধীনতার তীর ভূমি যখন অদূরে দেখা যায়, তখন আত্মকলহে আমরা রত হলাম। যে তরীতে বসে আছি তাই দ্বিখণ্ডিত করার উপক্রম করলাম। সরকারের কর্ত্তব্য হবে দেশকে আত্মকলহ হতে রক্ষা করা। কিন্তু সরকার নিজেই যদি সাম্প্রদায়িক দোষে দুষ্ট হয়, তার নিজের ঘাড়েই যদি ভূত চাপে তবে অপরের ঘাড়ের ভূত সে নামাবে কি করে? (A voice—বিহারে কি হয়েছে?) বিহারে খুব নিন্দনীয় কাজ হয়েছে। কিন্তু বিহারে নিন্দনীয় কাজ হয়েছে বলে বাংলা সরকারের নিন্দনীয় কাজ কি সমর্থিত হবে? তারপর এখানে আমরা বিহার সরকারের আলোচনা করছি না। বাংলা ব্যবস্থা পরিষদে বাংলা সরকারের আলোচনাই করছি। তারই দোষ-গুণের বিচার করছি। বাংলা সরকার তৃতীয় পক্ষের হাতের পুতুল হয়েছেন। সাম্রাজ্যবাদীর শেষ অস্ত্র সাম্প্রদায়িক বিষ। এ অস্ত্র Atom bomb বা Bacterial warfareএর Bacteria থেকে সাংঘাতিক। Atom bomb বা Bacteria এক স্থানে এক সময়ে বহু লোককে হনন করতে পারে। তার ক্রিয়া স্বল্পকালস্থায়ী। কিন্তু সাম্প্রদায়িক বিষ যা একবার তৃতীয় পক্ষ আমাদের জাতির অঙ্গে ঢেলেছেন তার ক্রিয়া বহুকাল ধরে চলছে। প্রচণ্ড থেকে প্রচণ্ডতর হচ্ছে, এবং যদি সময়ে আমরা সাবধান না হই, তাহলে বিষের ক্রিয়া সমস্ত দেহে ছড়িয়ে পড়বে অবশেষে জাতির আয়ু শেষ হবে; বিষে নীল হয়ে, অবসন্ন হয়ে সমস্ত আশা ভরসা আমাদের লোপ পাবে।

নোয়াখালী ও ত্রিপুরার ঘটনা সম্বন্ধে আমার প্রত্যক্ষ অভিজ্ঞতা আছে। উপদ্রুত চার হাজার স্কোয়ার মাইলের বহু স্থানে আমি গমন করেছি। চাঁদপুর হতে আমি সাইকেলে রওনা হই এবং ত্রিপুরা ও নোয়াখালীর উপদ্রুত অঞ্চলের এক প্রান্ত হতে অপর প্রান্ত পর্য্যন্ত পরিভ্রমণ করি। যেখানে সাইকেল চলা অসম্ভব সেখানে পায়ে হেঁটে চলি। যে হৃদয়বিদারক দৃশ্য দেখেছি তা কোনদিন ভুলবো না। (Noise from the opposite side.) যা বলছি শুনুন এবং যদি বুদ্ধি থাকে, হৃদয় থাকে তো ভাবুন। বিধ্বস্ত গ্রামের পর গ্রাম অতিক্রম করেছি আর ভেবেছি কোন মৃত্যুর রাজত্বের মধ্য দিয়ে চলেছি। চারিদিকের সেই ধ্বংসলীলার কথা মনে হলে এখনও রোমাঞ্চ হয়। একটা সম্প্রদায়ের সব কিছু বিনষ্ট। জোরপূর্ব্বক চাঁদা আদায়, ধর্ম্মান্তরিত করা, বিবাহ করা, ধর্ষণ করা, লুণ্ঠন করা, গ্রামের পর গ্রাম ভস্মীভূত করা, বাছিয়া বাছিয়া প্রধান ব্যক্তিগণকে হত্যা করা অবাধে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়েছে। ধ্বংস কার্য্যটী এমন সুচারুভাবে এমন প্ল্যানসম্মতভাবে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়েছে। প্রত্যেকটী গৃহ ভস্মীভূত! অর্দ্ধদগ্ধ টিনগুলি দুমড়ে, তুবড়ে ইতস্ততঃ বিক্ষিপ্ত, চারিদিকের নারিকেল ও সুপারি গাছ সব ঝলসান, ভস্ম আর ছাই—ভস্ম আর ছাই। বড় বড় palatial buildings পর্য্যন্ত debrisএ পরিণত হয়েছে। তার ছাদ ও দেওয়ালও ধসে পড়েছে, তার মধ্যে আজও নরকঙ্কাল ও নরমুণ্ড রয়েছে। আমি কতকগুলি সঙ্গে এনেছি--এই আমার কাছে এখানে আমার tableএর উপর শিশুর অস্থি, বৃদ্ধের অস্থি সজ্জিত রয়েছে, অগ্নিদগ্ধ ব্যক্তির অর্দ্ধদগ্ধ অস্থি রয়েছে। এক হাইমচর এলাকায় ১২ শত খানি গৃহ ভস্মীভূত হয়েছে। চেগার গাঁও, চণ্ডীপুর, মসিমপুর এলাকায় ১৮ শত ৩৫ খানি গৃহ ভস্মীভূত হয়েছে আর যা এই দুই এলাকায় ঘটেছে তা উপদ্রুত অঞ্চলে সর্বত্র ঘটেছে, কত গৃহ যে ভস্মীভূত হয়েছে তার সংখ্যা করতে পারিনি। সহস্র সহস্র গৃহ ভস্মীভূত হয়েছে, ৪ হাজার স্কোয়ার মাইল ব্যাপী এলাকায় শত শত গ্রামে সংখ্যালঘিষ্ঠ সম্প্রদায়কে সম্পূর্ণরূপে ধ্বংস করা হয়েছে। সত্যনিষ্ঠ লীগ সম্পাদক হাসেম সাহেব বল্লেন কোন নারীর উপর অত্যাচার করা হয় নাই। এরকম নির্জ্জলা অসত্য কোন দায়িত্বপূর্ণ পদে অধিষ্ঠিত থেকে লোক কি ক'রে বলতে পারে। প্রত্যক্ষ অভিজ্ঞতা থেকে আমি বলছি উপদ্রুত এলাকায় পাইকারী ভাবে শত শত নারীর উপর অত্যাচার করা হয়েছে। শত শত নারীকে ৮।১০ দিন আটক রেখে ধর্ষণ করা হয়েছে, অবশেষে ফেরত দেওয়া হয়েছে। বহু নারীর আজও কোন খোঁজ নাই।

এক গৃহে গিয়েছি সেখানে ৮ জনকে হত্যা করা হয়েছে। ভাইকে ভাইএর উপর শুইয়ে মায়ের সা হত্যা করা হয়েছে। অন্য এক স্থানে এক পরিবারের ২১ জনের মধ্যে ১৯ জনকে হত্যা করা হয়েছে। সেখা রক্তের দাগ, নরকঙ্কাল দেখেছি। এক গৃহে ২৯ জনকে হত্যা করা হয়েছে। ধ্বংসস্তূপের মধ্যে আজও সেখা নরকঙ্কাল দেখা যায়। কয়েক স্থানে জীবন্ত মানুষকে অগ্নিদগ্ধ করা হয়েছে। তাদের অর্দ্ধদগ্ধ অস্থি আমার এখা আছে। এক স্থানে স্ত্রীর কোলের উপর স্বামীকে নিষ্ঠুরভাবে হত্যা করা হয়েছে।

হাসেম সাহেব বল্লেন কংগ্রেস সমর্থিত গোলাম সারওয়ার নোয়াখালী ও ত্রিপুরার হাঙ্গামার জন্য দায়ী নোয়াখালী ও ত্রিপুরায় যা ঘটেছে তা কংগ্রেসই করেছে একথা যে তিনি বলেন নাই তারজন্য তাঁকে ধন্যবাদ সারওয়ার সাহেব কবে কংগ্রেস সমর্থিত হলেন? তিনি কি লীগ দলে যোগ দেবার পর এই সৎকর্ম্মে রত হন নাই কিন্তু কেবল তাঁকেই scape goat করা কেন? তাঁর পিছনে কি পুলিশ সাহেব ছিলেন না? লীগের ইঙ্গিতে তৃতীয় পক্ষের ইঙ্গিত ছিল না? তা নাহলে তিনি এমন অবাধে উত্তেজনামূলক বক্তৃতা করে বেড়াতে লাগলেন কি করে? জাপানী আসবে বলে যারা ৩০ হাজার বাস্তুভিটা অনতিকালে উচ্ছেদ করতে পারেন তাঁরা হাঙ্গামাকে বা করতে সামান্য গোলাম সারওয়ারকে আটক করতে পারলেন না? কর্ত্তার ইচ্ছায় কর্ম্ম। কলকাতার হাঙ্গামার সময় যেমন পুলিশের টিকি দেখা যায় নাই, প্রবল প্রতাপ লাল বাজারের সামনে টেরেটী বাজার পর্য্যন্ত পাইকারী হত্যাকাণ্ড অনুষ্ঠিত হয়েছে। পুলিশ বরং হাঙ্গামাতে ইন্ধন দিয়াছে—নোয়াখালী ও ত্রিপুরাতেও তাই। ১৪ দিন ধরে এখানে কোন গভর্ণমেণ্টই ছিল না। শত আবেদন নিবেদনেও পুলিশকে নড়ান যায়নি। যেটুকু সাহায্য তারা করেছে তা দাঙ্গাকারীদেরই করেছে। আমরা পুলিশের ব্যয়বরাদ্দ বাড়িয়েছি wirelessএর ব্যবস্থা করেছি। Jeep গাড়ী কিনে দিয়েছি। Aeroplane কিনে দিয়েছি। উন্নত ধরণের মারণাস্ত্রে তাদের সজ্জিত করেছি। আর আইন ও শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষার এই নমুনা।

একস্থানে স্থানীয় লোকেরা হত্যাকারী বলে আমায় দুইজনকে দেখিয়ে দিল। তাদের নামে Magistrateএর কাছে Police সাহেবের কাছে যে এজেহার দেওয়া হয়েছে তাও তারা দেখাল। আশ্চর্য্যের বিষয় যে আজও পর্য্যন্ত এর কোন investigation হ'ল না। শত শত এই রকম এজাহারের investigation পর্য্যন্ত হয়নি, লুণ্ঠনকারী, হত্যাকারী, নারী ধর্ষণকারীরা অবাধে চলা ফেরা করে বেড়াচ্ছে, লুণ্ঠিত মাল ওমুক বাড়ীতে আছে, খোদাই করা থালা বাসন, টিন, নামলেখা তৈজসপত্র ইত্যাদি আছে বলে পুলিশে খবর দিলেও পুলিশ এসে অনুসন্ধান করে না, আশ্চর্য্য বটে। "Every thing is fair in love and war." পুলিশ কিন্তু কিরূপ সজাগ তা আমার জেলায় শান্তিপুরে এসে দেখুন। এখানে সাম্প্রদায়িক দাঙ্গায় উভয় সম্প্রদায়ই ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত, কিন্তু বেছে বেছে কেবল এক সম্প্রদায়ের লোককেই গ্রেপ্তার করা হয়েছে। এই গ্রেপ্তারে ৬০ বৎসরের বৃদ্ধ থেকে ১০ বৎসরের নিরাপরাধ শিশু পর্য্যন্ত বাদ যায়নি। জামিন না দিয়ে তাদের হাজতে পাঠান হয়েছে।

হিন্দু মুসলমান দুই সহোদর ভাই, কেবল গর্ভধারিণী জননীই আমাদের মা নন। দেশ জননী ও ভাষা জননীও আমাদের মা, সেই হিসাবে আমাদের উভয়ের মাই যখন এক তখন আমরা সহোদর। আমাদের আত্মকলহ ভাই ভাই বিবাদ সর্ব্বাগ্রে বন্ধ করা উচিত। তৃতীয় পক্ষ আমাদের আত্মকলহই চায়। যে পৃথক নির্ব্বাচনের বিষবৃক্ষের সামান্য চারা তারা একদিন রোপণ করেছে তাই আজ মহামহীরূহে পরিণত হয়ে সমস্ত দেশকে ধ্বংস করার উপক্রম করেছে। নোয়াখালী ও ত্রিপুরার জনবিহীন ভস্মীভূত পল্লীগুলির মধ্যে তার মর্ম্মন্তুদ ঘটনাবলী মণ্ডিত ধ্বংসস্তূপের মধ্যে বার বার এই কথাই আমার মনে হয়েছে। ভাই ভাই যাতে ঠাঁই ঠাঁই না হয় আজ সরকারের সর্ব্বাগ্রে তাই দেখাই কর্ত্তব্য। আর তা' না' হ'লে বাঙ্গলা সরকার যদি নিজেই সাম্প্রদায়িক দোষযুক্ত হন তবে বাঙ্গলার হিন্দু, মুসলমানের, বাঙ্গালী জাতির ধ্বংস অনিবার্য্য।

সালাম সাহেব বল্লেন নোয়াখালী ও ত্রিপুরায় মুসলমানেরাই হিন্দুদের কাছে নির্য্যাতীত, বলিহারী! স্বার্থপর রাজনৈতিকগণই আজ জনসাধারণকে ভুল পথে চালিত করছেন। তাঁরাই তৃতীয় পক্ষের হাতের ক্রীড়নক, এমন কি আমাদের ফজলুল হক সাহেব পর্য্যন্ত বল্লেন নোয়াখালী ও ত্রিপুরায় মুসলমানেরাই আজ নির্য্যাতীত! জয় হউক।

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY : মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়! ভ্রান্তি-বিদ্বেষের বিষে দেশের আকাশ বাতাস, বাঙালীর মানস ও মন যখন আছন্ন, বিরোধের মূল কারণগুলো বের করে প্রতিকার চেষ্টা ছিল যখন দেশ-নায়কদের একমাত্র কর্ত্তব্য, সে সময় অতীতের অপ্রীতিকর ঘটনাগুলোকে খুঁচিয়ে রাজনৈতিক উদ্দেশ্যসাধনের ব্যাপারে ব্যবহার করা হচ্ছে—এ বাস্তবিকই বেদনাদায়ক।

নোয়াখালী, ত্রিপুরার দুর্ঘটনাকে দিনের পর দিন যেভাবে অতিরঞ্জিত করা হয়েছে তা থেকে সত্য উদ্ধার করা অত্যন্ত কঠিন ব্যাপার। কলকাতার সংবাদপত্রগুলো ও রাজনৈতিক নেতারা এই ব্যাপারে দিনের পর দিন পাল্লা

দিয়ে চলেছেন। এক কাগজে বেরিয়েছে ৫ হাজার লোকের হত্যার খবর, পরদিনই আবার অন্য কাগজ সংখ্যা বাড়িয়ে ১০ হাজারে নিয়ে তুলেছেন। পনর দিনে সংখ্যা গিয়ে উঠলো ১৫ হাজারে। পনর হাজার মানুষের হত্যা, হাজার হাজার নারীর উপর নির্য্যাতন, হাজার হাজারের ধর্ম্মান্তর গ্রহণের খবর শুন্‌লে কে পারে উত্তেজিত না হয়ে? সংবাদপত্রে দেখেছি খাঁচায় করে ৪৯টি মাথা গোলাম সরওয়ার সাহেবকে উপহার দেওয়ার খবর বাংলা কাউন্সিলের বিরুদ্ধ দলের নেতা শ্রীযুক্ত কামিনী দত্ত বিবৃতি দিয়েছেন, তিনি নারীর কান্না শুনতে পেয়েছেন রেল-গাড়ী থেকে। অথচ রেল লাইন থেকে উপদ্রুত অঞ্চলের দূরত্ব ১৫ মাইলের কম হবে না। এক স্বামীজি বিবৃতি দিয়েছিলেন, তিনি ৩০ মাইল হামাগুড়ি দিয়ে পালিয়ে এসেছেন। অথচ ঘটনার সময় রামগঞ্জের ধানক্ষেত ছিল অথৈ জলে ডোবা।

শ্রীযুক্ত বিমল সিংহ, শ্রীযুক্ত হারাণ ঘোষ, যাঁদের মুখে বক্তৃতার তুবড়ি ফুটছে আজ, নোয়াখালীতে তাঁদের টিকিটিও দেখা যায়নি--ঘটনার বহুদিন পরেও। বিমল বাবু ভুলুয়ার জমিদারদের আত্মীয়। সেই জমিদার ও মহাজনেরা--যাঁদের শক্তি ছিল, বন্দুক ছিল, পাহারা দেওয়ার লোক ছিল, তাঁরা ঘটনার সময় গরীব অসহায় লোকদের দিকে ফিরেও দেখেন নি। কলকাতায় এসে অতিরঞ্জিত বিবৃতির ঘোড়দৌড় চালিয়ে তাঁরা তাঁদের কর্ত্তব্য শেষ করে-ছেন। প্রাদেশিক কংগ্রেসের সভাপতি পর্য্যন্ত এই সব মহাজনদের পন্থা অনুসরণ করতে কসুর করেননি। আজ যখন প্রয়োজন আবহাওয়া বদলাবার, দৃষ্টিভঙ্গীর পরিবর্ত্তনের, সে সময় আবার উত্তেজনার সৃষ্টি করা হচ্ছে adjourment motionএর ভিতর দিয়ে। হতভাগ্য অবহেলিত নোয়াখালীর নাম আজ বাংলার, শুধু বাংলার কেন, ভারতের ঘরে ঘরে আলোচিত হচ্ছে। বাংলার গভর্ণর, প্রধান-মন্ত্রী, জওহরলাল, আচার্য্য কৃপালনী থেকে আরম্ভ কোরে চুনোপুঁটি পর্য্যন্ত নোয়াখালীর নিভৃততম পল্লীতে আজ আসর জমাচ্ছেন। নোয়াখালীর উপর এই সুদৃষ্টি যদি দেওয়া হ'ত আগে থেকে এই দুর্ঘটনা থেকে এই হতভাগ্য জেলা রক্ষা পেত।

নোয়াখালীর এই দুর্ঘটনার গোড়ায় কার্য্যকরী হয়েছে রাজনীতি ততখানি নয় যতখানি কার্য্যকরী হয়েছে অর্থ-নীতি। এ জেলায় এক লক্ষ লোককে সামরিক প্রয়োজনে বাস্তুহারা করা হয়েছে। নদী ভাঙ্গা ও বন্যা-বিধ্বস্তের সংখ্যা এখানে কয়েক লক্ষ। যুদ্ধ-ফেরৎ বেকার দেড় লক্ষের মত হবে। রামগঞ্জ এলাকার রাস্তাঘাটের ব্যবস্থা ছিল একেবারে অকিঞ্চিৎকর। বর্ষায় চিরকালই যোগাযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন হয়ে যায় এখানে। সন্দ্বীপে ৫০ বছরের আন্দোলনের পরও টেলিগ্রাফের ব্যবস্থা হয়নি। জাপান-যুদ্ধের সময় চর অঞ্চল সভ্য জগৎ থেকে বহুবার বিচ্ছিন্ন হয়ে পড়েছে। নোয়াখালী—বিশেষ কোরে রামগঞ্জ অঞ্চল—জমিদার, মহাজন ও শোষকদের পীঠস্থান। "দামোদর" ও "ময়ূর" পরি-কল্পনার জন্যে পশ্চিম বঙ্গের বিদ্যুৎকরণ ও শিল্পোন্নয়নের জন্য বাজেটে যখন কোটি কোটি টাকা বরাদ্দ হয় তখন মেঘনা, ডাকাতিয়া, ফেণী, মুহুরী, ছিনলিয়ার জন্য ছিটে ফোঁটার ব্যবস্থাও হয় না। রাষ্ট্রনিয়ন্তাদের অবহেলা জমিদার ও মহাজনদের শোষণের ফলে নোয়াখালী বহুদিন থেকে বারুদের স্তূপে পরিণত হয়েছিল। বাইরে থেকে কিছু লোক এসে সাম্প্রদায়িক দাঙ্গার দেশলাই না লাগালেও এখানে ইন্ধন জমত। তবে সে ইন্ধন হ'ত অর্থনৈতিক ইন্ধন।

নোয়াখালীতে যা হয়েছে তাকে বলা যায় প্রকৃতির প্রতিশোধ। রোগের মূল কারণের দিকে দৃষ্টি না দিয়ে বাহিরে প্রলেপ লাগাবার চেষ্টা করা হাতুড়ের কাজ। তাতে রোগের প্রতিকার হয় না।

গান্ধীজী নোয়াখালীতে ঘুরে বেড়াচ্ছেন শান্তির প্রচেষ্টায়। তাঁর সঙ্গে রয়েছে এখনো বহু বিদেশী স্বেচ্ছা-সেবক। বাহিরের লোকের চেষ্টায় শান্তি প্রতিষ্ঠিত হবে না। শান্তি ফিরে আসতে পারে উভয়ের হৃদয়ের পরি-বর্ত্তনের ভেতর দিয়ে। সুতরাং শান্তির আকাঙ্ক্ষা জাগিয়ে তুলতে হবে ভেতর থেকেই।

নোয়াখালীর হিন্দু ও মুসলমানের পক্ষ থেকে শ্রীযুক্ত ক্ষিতীশ রায় চৌধুরী, শ্রীযুক্ত সুবল সাহা, শ্রীযুক্ত রসময় মজুমদার, আমি ও জেলা লীগ সেক্রেটারী প্রস্তাব করেছিলাম আচার্য্য কৃপালনী ও ডক্টর শ্যামাপ্রসাদের কাছে স্থানীয় হিন্দু-মুসলমানের যুক্ত প্রচেষ্টার ভেতর দিয়ে স্বাভাবিক অবস্থা ফিরিয়ে আনবার। আমরা আরও বলেছিলাম যে আমরা সেবা দিয়ে, কল্যাণ বুদ্ধি দিয়ে দুর্গত হিন্দুদের চিত্ত জয় করব; হিন্দুরাও প্রতিশোধের স্পৃহা দমন করবেন। চৌমুহানী ও ফেণীতে এরূপ প্রচেষ্টা সফলও হয়েছিল। দুঃখের বিষয় আচার্য্য কৃপালনী ও ডক্টর মুখার্জি আমাদের প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করেননি।

আজ নোয়াখালীতে প্রতিহিংসার আগুণ জলেছে। পুলিশ ও মিলিটারীর অত্যাচারের তাণ্ডব চল্‌ছে। হিন্দু-দের ওপর যে জুলুম হয়েছিল তার চেয়ে বেশী জুলুম ইতিমধ্যেই হয়ে গেছে মুসলমানদের ওপর। যাঁরা শান্তি কামনায় জীবন বিপদাপন্ন করেছিলেন তাঁদের ওপরও হচ্ছে নির্য্যাতনের পরখ। নারী, শিশু, আলেম, পীর, শিক্ষক, বৃদ্ধ, খঞ্জ, কেউ রেহাই পাচ্ছে না।

প্রধান মন্ত্রীকে আজ আক্রমণ করা হচ্ছে। অথচ বিহার ও আসাম মন্ত্রীসভার অনুকরণ না কোরে তিনি গান্ধীজী ও ভলাণ্টিয়ারদের সুযোগ দিয়েছেন যত রকম সম্ভব। আসাম সরকার তাঁকে আসামে যাওয়ার অনুমতি দেয়নি সে কথা তিনি ভাবেননি। নিজ জনপ্রিয়তাকে বিপন্ন কোরে তিনি তাঁর একমাত্র কন্যাকে গান্ধীজীর সহযাত্রী করতে চেয়েছিলেন শান্তি প্রচেষ্টায়। মাননীয় শামসুদ্দীন আহমদ তিরস্কার বরণ করেছেন এই ব্যাপারে উৎসাহের আতিশয্যে। প্রধান-মন্ত্রীর আজ উভয়সঙ্কট। হিন্দুরা বলে তিনি তাদের রক্ষা করছেন না, মুসলমানেরা বলে অভিযোগের কারণ মুসলমানদেরই বেশী।

ত্রিপুরা, নোয়াখালীর মুসলমান আজ স্বভাব দুর্বৃত্তের ব্যবহার পাচ্ছে। মুসলমানদের ওপর জুলুম চালিয়ে শুধু হিন্দুদের পুনর্বসতির ব্যবস্থা করলে চলবে না। উভয় জাতির অর্থনৈতিক সমস্যার সমাধান কোরে প্রীতির সম্পর্ক ফিরিয়ে আনাই আজ আমাদের কর্তব্য। রাজনৈতিক উদ্দেশ্য সাধনের জন্য নোয়াখালীর সমস্যাকে বাংলার ধনিক শ্রেণীর হিন্দুরা যেভাবে ব্যবহার করবেন তাতে গরীব হিন্দুদের ক্ষতি হচ্ছে সবচেয়ে বেশী। নোয়াখালীর নাম কোরে রাজনৈতিক উদ্দেশ্যসাধন নয়, অন্যত্র উত্তেজনা সৃষ্টিও নয়, নোয়াখালীর ধ্বংসস্তূপে নব সৃষ্টির আয়োজনই হোক আমাদের উদ্দেশ্য।

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is really painful that in a motion like this it is impossible not to refer to the communal situation in the country and it is impossible to talk with restraint in the midst of so many lies that have been propagated by the other side. It has been stated by Maulvi Majibar Rahman, Secretary of the District Muslim League, that since the outbreak of the incidents in Noakhali no further incidents took place after the 16th of October. Sir, Mr. Rahman is a criminal legal practitioner for the last twenty years and knows the art of lying very much. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mr. R. Gupta, a senior member of the I.C.S., was deputed as a special officer by Government to enquire into the incidents and he was attacked by the Muslim mob there. He would have been killed but for the police firing on the spot by one Satish Chandra Chakravarty, a police officer. This Satish Chandra Chakravarty who saved the life of Mr. Gupta was suspended by this Muslim Government. Sir, this incident took place after the 16th of October. Then on the 6th or 7th of November Mr. Haran Ghose Chaudhury's cousin, Sachin Ghose Chaudhury, was murdered. On the 29th October, five villagers were murdered. On the 10th November two men were murdered. In the first week of November, on the 3rd, one Jatin Das was murdered. On the 8th November, Suren, Akhoy, Khitish and Satish Saha were murdered and a relief officer was found missing since 8th November. It is impossible in this short time at my disposal to enumerate the incidents that had taken place after the 16th October. Sir, after the 16th October, within a month the unfortunate Hindu population of Noakhali were marooned and they were not allowed to get out of that area without a passport. He has said that the Muslim League has got nothing to do with the occurrence. How is it that it was an organised affair? It is useless to deny the fact that from the 10th to the 16th October large numbers of Hindu population of Noakhali, about 150,000, were forcibly converted to Islam. That was the case of forcible conversion. All the houses of the Hindu population were looted during this period. And what is still more painful is that Hindu women were abducted. Mrs. Ashalata Sen has told the House that the Muslim League, that the Government which is in power, wanted to minimise the gravity of the situation. Any attempt to minimise the gravity of the situation is to put a premium upon lawlessness. Even today they are not repenting.

Mr. Mujibar Rahman was telling the House that nothing had happened in Noakhali and Tippera—very slight things happened. He can tell like this. He is the Secretary of the District Muslim League of Noakhali. He is reported to have told the other day that Mahatma Gandhi should leave Noakhali very soon. Mahatma Gandhi is trying his utmost to restore good feeling between Muslims and Hindus and Maulvi Mujibar Rahaman, Secretary of the Muslim League, is now describing today that nothing had happened in Noakhali and that Mahatma Gandhi should leave Noakhali.

Mr. Salam, another Secretary of the Chandpur Muslim League, is reported to have told on the 12th November that nothing had happened in Chandpur. I know, Sir, Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy will tell like this. Sir, immediately after the occurrence the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed went to the locality and he is reported to have said that such things did not happen during the British rule, such things did not happen during the Moghul rule. That was the version of a Minister after going there after the incidents had happened. What is the use of telling that nothing had happened. Where are the reports of the two officers? Mr. Simpson is a senior officer. He was a District and Sessions Judge, not only a Sessions Judge, he was a Judge of the Hon'ble High Court for some time. His report was not published. Why his report was not published? His report will not be published. What had happened at Haimchar? Such destruction had not taken place by the Atom Bomb. Only the other day I went to Haimchar and I saw the scenes of destruction. All the houses had been burnt and it is impossible to describe here today sitting in the Legislative Assembly the scenes of destruction that was committed upon the innocent people. It is impossible to describe the scenes of destruction committed upon the Namasudra community, 20,000 Namasudras in Haimchar in the district of Tippera. I ask the Government not to minimise the seriousness of the situation. They should repent for it.

(The member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, coming from the sick-bed, I shall be very brief in my remarks. If the object of the mover of the resolution is to condemn the Government for not being able to give protection to the weak and the helpless, I might join my voice with his, but I differ from him completely when he says that the privilege of bringing this complaint against this Government lies entirely with the Hindu community. In my opinion, Sir, the Muslims have suffered far more than the Hindus at the hands of the present Government because of their anxious desire to placate the Opposition that is in this House. I am sorry I have to say but I say it from personal experience.

Sir, the dark spots on this side of India are the five districts of Bihar and portions of two districts of Noakhali and Tippera. I have been to Bihar twice and I have been the personal observer of the effects of destruction that has followed the communal frenzy in Bihar. I do not for a moment hold the entire Hindu community responsible for what has been done by their co-religionists in Bihar. But let me tell this House, Sir, my second conviction that although Mahatma Gandhi and others may rehabilitate Noakhali, it will be impossible to rehabilitate Muslim Bihar and the Muhammadans of Bihar have not only been completely ruined but exterminated by reason of the oppression that has been committed upon them. (Cries of "shame" "shame" from the Muslim League benches.)

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: This Government is responsible for it.

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: But so far as Noakhali and Comilla are concerned, it has been said that the Muslim League was at the back of the ruffians who had perpetrated oppressions in those areas. I would refer to one or two instances. Ask the House to give their opinion as to whether the Muslim League could have been at the back of the hooliganism that had taken place in those parts of Bengal. On the Iduzzoha Day there were prayers at certain places near about Hajiganj. Shots were fired on the Muslims while they were at prayer. Men have been killed, complaints have been lodged but no action has been taken by anybody up till now to give the Muslims redress. Would this have happened if the Muslim League had been at the back of what has been happening at Noakhali and Comilla? It is known that the Muslim League has failed in its duty to give protection

to the Muslims in those areas. I have not been able to go to Noakhali and Comilla on account of ill-health, but I have looked into official papers, I have looked into official records and I have had hundreds of persons who come to me as clients asking me to give legal assistance to them and I can tell this House that at the present moment more than 3,000 Muslims are being lodged in *hajat*, then given bail for a few days and again arrested and so this cat and mouse game is going on so far as the unfortunate Muslims of Noakhali and Comilla are concerned. Why this, Sir? If the story is true that these hooligans set upon the Hindu population and massacred them in broad daylight, why is it that not a single case has been brought to Court and the accused put on trial? Sir, I have tried to induce my clients there in Noakhali and Comilla to put in petitions to the Court asking for a trial and for the accused to be put on the dock. Let evidence be brought and let me test the evidence. I can assure this House that when these cases are really started I will be able to show to the world by defending these Muslims that 99 per cent. of the accusations are absolutely false. I will show from official records that these men are not going to be put on trial at all. More than five months have elapsed. Why is it that these cases do not yet see the light of the day? Why are not they being put in the dock? Why is it that evidence is not being taken against them? Why are not these men being brought to Court, tried and hanged publicly? We will not object to that procedure, but that is not being done.

Sir, I will not take up the time of this House any more. Mahatma Gandhi has done a splendid thing in Bengal, but Bengal is too small a place, especially Noakhali, for a man like Mahatma Gandhi. Let him go to Bihar. Bihar is the place where there is need for his services. (Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Why should not Mr. Jinnah go there?)

Now, Sir, I say with all the emphasis at my command that the military police and the police must be removed from Noakhali and Tippera this very moment. They are oppressing the poor villagers. The police and the military police are non-Muslims and they are using their official authority, their power and their privilege in oppressing the Muslims. Let them be removed. I ask the Chief Minister to pass orders at once to remove them, because if what he says is true that Mahatma Gandhi has been able to restore confidence, what is the necessity for the military police to be still there? Nothing. By removing them you will see living peace.

So far as this motion is concerned, I think.....

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have no desire to refer in detail to the speeches of my honourable friends Mr. Abul Hashim and Mr. Fazlul Huq. (A VOICE FROM THE MINISTERIALIST PARTY BENCHES: Your friend!) And your friend for the time being who may be the cause of your doom also! (laughter.)

Sir, Mr. Abul Hashim has congratulated the Bengal Ministry on its performance in Noakhali and Chandpur. Mr. Fazlul Huq has condemned the Ministry. I wish both of them the best of luck in the election speeches which they have made on the floor of this House.

I would like to deal with this motion and would also request the honourable members of this House to deal with it in a spirit of solemn seriousness. After all, what has happened in Noakhali and Chandpur is without a parallel in the history of any civilised Government. My charge, Sir, is that not only have the people of Noakhali and Chandpur who belong to the majority community failed to give the protection that was due from them to the minority community and oppressed it; my charge is that the Muslim League which undoubtedly is popular and powerful among Muslims in that district failed to give protection to the minority community; and

my further charge is that the Ministry also hopelessly failed to discharge its primary responsibility, and its officers, though previously informed, did nothing to protect lives and properties. It has been said that the Muslim League knew nothing about it, that whatever happened in Noakhali and Chandpur was in spite of the Muslim League. Golam Sarwar who forfeited his deposit in the election (Cries of "no, no" from ministerialist party benches) or at any rate who was hopelessly defeated (Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Though you paid him Rs. 20,000)—I paid nothing—but in spite of that payment Golam Sarwar who was defeated in the election became so suddenly popular that he could carry the Muslim masses with him only a few months later and incite them to violence. (A VOICE FROM MINISTERIALIST PARTY BENCHES: But he did not join the League.) Go and narrate your fairy tales in a new edition of the Arabian Nights before you repeat them seriously on the floor of this Assembly. Now, Sir, what happened in Noakhali? It was a deliberate, well-thought-out plan for mass conversion of the minority. You were making an experiment of the Pakistan to come. (A VOICE FROM MINISTERIALIST PARTY BENCHES: Yes.) Somebody has the courage to say "yes". I am glad that there is at least one honest man in this House on that side who says that he did it for the purpose of showing what Pakistan was like. (A VOICE FROM MINISTERIALIST PARTY BENCHES: No.) The interruptor says there is no honest man on that side! (laughter). It was not mass killing. Mass killing was not in the plan. I admit that. The number of people killed was not correctly reported. But that does not justify any member of the League to say that what happened was not enormous in its intensity and barbarousness. Mass conversion was more horrible than even physical death. Whoever came and opposed it was slaughtered. (Cries of "question" from ministerialist party benches.) Every symbol of Hindu religious worship was destroyed. There was loot—almost universal. Arson was also of a widespread character. There were cases of outrages on women, the exact number of which is not yet available. Even a few weeks ago when I was in Delhi, we received information about the recovery of two unfortunate girls from Noakhali from some parts of the Punjab. How is it possible for any member of this House who has an iota of decency left in him to tolerate such abominable things happening in any part of the civilised world in the year 1946? I would have thought that members of this House whom I am addressing would get up one after another and express their regret, their humiliation, their abhorrence at the things which have happened in Bengal under the League Ministry.

Now, Sir, what was the method that was employed? It is proved that there was a demand for subscriptions for the Muslim League, which were actually paid by hundreds and thousands of men in Noakhali. Where has that money gone to? If Mr. Fazlul Huq and Mr. Abul Hashim get an opportunity, they ought to call for accounts from the District Muslim League of Noakhali and find out where the money has disappeared. Leaflets were circulated in print alleged to be signed by responsible Hindus who were forcibly converted and made to give a declaration that they had embraced Islam out of their sweet will, and asking others to follow; thousands of such leaflets were circulated. How were such things possible? They were possible because the Muslims felt—and the leaders who incited them, instigated them, advised them they felt that there was a Government sitting in Calcutta which would not come and do anything to establish law and order, that Pakistan had actually come. Mr. Abul Hashim referred to Lakhi Babu. Does he know that the village of Panchgaon was burnt and looted when the Superintendent of Police was himself present in the village. He did nothing to save the Hindus. Does he know that? When one military officer was rescued from that village and brought to the military camp, I was there myself at Chowmohani, and the statement that he made was of a staggering nature. No one would believe it unless he actually heard with his own ears the woeful tale of humiliation, misery and torture.

Now, Sir, all this could have been stopped. Indeed the officers were guilty of criminal neglect of duty. I could have understood the bona-fides of Government if Government had taken prompt steps to stop it. But Government did nothing of the kind. The very officers who were responsible for this horrid state of affairs and who failed to protect life and property, to arrest the offenders and to recover looted properties—those very officers were allowed to remain there, and some officers who tried to maintain law and order and help the oppressed—those officers were quickly transferred. Mr. Suhrawardy has taken the credit for bringing 150,000 people from Bihar to Bengal.

Look at the two pictures. There is one policy which affects the Muslims of Bihar and there is another which affects the Hindu minority in Noakhali and Chandpur. Here the Government threatened to stop rations and to withdraw relief measures unless the refugees went back to their homes immediately. Confidence was not restored but they were compelled to go back on the pain of stopping of rations and closing down of Refugee Camps. But from Bihar lakhs of Muslims were being brought into Bengal.

(At this stage the blue light was lit.)

Sir, I have spoken only for six minutes. I thought you would give me 15 minutes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable members of your party have taken more time and so your time had to be cut down.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, I would ask Government one straight question. I have before me the eleven points which have been enumerated by the All-India Working Committee of the Muslim League giving directions as to how relief is to be given to the minority Muslims in Bihar. If the Government of Bengal is sincere with regard to the protection of the minority Hindus in Bengal, will Government which is 100 per cent. a Muslim League Government follow the same principles which have been enunciated by the Muslim League for the Muslim minority in Bihar. (Cries of "Surely, surely" from the Muslim League benches.) If that announcement is made, I know it would be possible for us to rehabilitate Noakhali and Chandpur much sooner than many people would expect. I ask Mr. Suhrawardy at whose expense he has brought 150,000 Muslim from Bihar to Bengal? At the expense of the Government of Bengal, at the expense of the people of Bengal they have been placed in districts where the Hindus are in a majority. The object is not to give relief to the Muslims of Bihar but to increase the population of Muslims in those parts of Bengal where they are in a minority. Could anything be more diabolical? Could anything be more preposterous?

Sir, my demand before the Government is that the Government should follow strictly the principles which have been laid down by the All-India Working Committee of the Muslim League with regard to the protection of the Muslim minority in Bihar, namely, the imposition of punitive tax on the majority community, arrest and detention in jail and cancellation of bail of all offenders. This is the demand of the Muslim League. In the same way we demand the posting of Hindu officers and Hindu armed police in affected areas; establishment of big pockets where Hindu inhabitants will be consolidated in Noakhali and Chandpur, investigation should be in the hands of non-Muslim Officers; granting of licenses for firearms to at least 10 per cent. of the Hindus in the big pockets; stationing of armed Hindu officers with at least 50 per cent. of Hindu police in Noakhali and Chandpur. If Mr. Suhrawardy really expects a consistency in the treatment of the minorities which has been the demand of the All-India Working Committee of the Muslim League, it is only fair and proper that these demands which have been voiced by the All-India Working Committee of the Muslim League for the protection of the minority in Bihar should be applied for the protection of the Hindus in Bengal.

Mr. KHWAJA NASARULLAH: Sir, I move that the question be now put.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: A closure has been moved and there is seven minutes' time left.

The question that the question be now put, was then put and agreed to.

The motion of Mr. Haran Chandra Ghosh Chowdhury that this Assembly do adjourn its business to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, namely, the situation created by the failure of the Government to prevent a mass uprising of the Muslims of Noakhali and Tippera resulting in (1) forcible conversion of Hindus *en masse* of some portions of Noakhali and Tippera, (2) mass abduction of the women of the minority community, (3) forcible marriage of a large number of Hindu women and girls by the majority community, (4) murders of a large number of people of the minority community, (5) destruction of a large number of houses and properties of the minority community by loot, arson, etc., and (6) desecration of temples and objects of worship *en masse*, was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—74.

Acharjee, Mr. Shitangshu Kanta.
Adhikari, Mr. Amulya Chandra.
Bandopadhaya, Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Banerjee, Mr. Gobindalal.
Banerjee, Mr. Susil Kumar.
Barman, Mr. Mohini Mohan.
Basu, Mr. Hemanta Kumar.
Basu, Mr. Jyoti.
Bhandari, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Bhattacharjee, Mr. Ganendra Chandra.
Bhattacharjee, Mr. Munindra Nath.
Bhattacharyya, Mr. Shyamapada.
Birsha, Mr. Bir.
Bose, Mr. Satish Chandra.
Brahmin, Mr. Ratanlal.
Chakraborty, Mr. Benode Chandra.
Chakravarty, Mr. Satish Chandra.
Chatterjee, Mr. Haripada.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Mihir Lal.
Chowdhury, Mr. Annada Prosad.
Das, Mr. Brojomadhab.
Das, Mr. Jogendra Chandra.
Das, Mr. Radha Nath.
Das Gupta, Mr. Khagendra Nath.
Das Gupta, Mr. Suresh Chandra.
Dass, Mr. Kanailal.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
De, Mr. Kanai Lal.
Dhar, Mr. Manoranjan.
Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath.
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
Ganguli, Mr. Bepin Behari.
Gayen, Mr. Arabinda.
Ghose, Mr. Bimal Comar.
Ghosh Chowdhury, Mr. Haran Chandra.
Guha Roy, Dr. Protap Chandra.
Gupta, Mr. J. C.
Gupta, Mr. Monoranjan.
Haldar, Mr. Kuber Chand.
Jalan, Mr. Iswar Das.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Lahiri, Mr. Provas Chandra.
Mahanty, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari.
Majhi, Mr. Nishapati.
Majumdar, Mr. Bhupati.
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra.
Mallick, Mr. Ashutosh.
Mandal, Mr. Annadaprasad.
Mandal, Mr. Bankubehari.
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad.
Mookerjee, Dr. Syamaprasad.
Murarka, Mr. Basantlal.
Nandy, Maharaja Sris Chandra, of Cossimbazar.
Naskar, Mr. Ardhendu Sekhar.
Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Panja, Mr. Jadabendra Nath.
Poddar, Mr. Anandilal.
Pramanik, Mr. Rajani Kanta.
Ray, Mr. Kamal Krishna.
Ray Barman, Mr. Rajani Kanta.
Roy, Mr. Harendra Nath.
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
Roy, Mr. Ram Hari.
Roy, Mr. Rup Narayan.
Sarkar, Mr. Bijoy Krishna.
Sarkar, Mr. Rajendra Nath.
Sarker, Mr. Prafulla Ranjan.
Sen, Mrs. Ashalata.
Sen, Mr. Debendra Nath.
Sen, Mr. Satindra Nath.
Sen Gupta, Mrs. Nellie.
Singhi, Mr. Narendra Singh.
Sinha, Mr. Bimal Chandra.

NOES—107.

Abdul Ahad, Dr.
Abdul Aziz Munshi, Mr.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakim Mia, Mr.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Mr. Md.
Abdul Halim, Mr. Molla Mohammad.
Abdul Hamid, Mr.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Hannan, Mr.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Khaleque, Mr.
Abdul Mannan, Mr. Fakir.
Abdul Momin, Mr.
Abdullahel Baqui, Mr. Md.
Abdur Rahman, The Hon'ble Mr. A. F. M.
Abdur Rahman Khan (*alias* Nuru Mia), Mr.
Abdur Rashid, Maulana Khondkar.

Abdur Rauf, Mr. Syed.
Abdus Sabur Khan, Mr.
Abdus Salam, Mr. Md.
Abul Hashem, Mr.
Abul Kalam Shamsuddin, Mr.
Abul Masud, Mr. Kazi.
Abul Quasem, Mr.
Ahammad Ali, Mr. Mir.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Mr.
Ahmed Hosain, The Hon'ble Mr.
Ahmed Kabir Chowdhury, Mr.
Akbar Ali, Maulvi.
Ali Ahmed Chowdhury, Mr.
Ali Ahmed Khan, Mr.
Anwara Khatun, Mrs.
Arif Chaudhury (Dhanu Mia), Mr. Md.
Asan Ali Muktear, Mr.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Mr.
Azizur Rahman, Mr. Syed.
Badiuzzaman Muhammad Ilias, Mr.
Bafatuddin Talukdar, Mr. A. K. M.
Barman, Mr. Haran Chandra.
Baruri, The Hon'ble Mr. Dwarka Nath.
Biswas, Dr. Bhola Nath.
Ebrahim Khan, Mr.
Emaduddin Ahammad, Mr.
Eskandar Ali Khan, Mr.
Fazlul Huq, Mr. A. K.
Fazlul Karim, Mr.
Fazlul Qadir, Mr.
Fazlur Rahman (Dacca), The Hon'ble Mr.
Fazlur Rahman (Noakhali), Mr.
Habibul Huq, Mr. Syed.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Mr.
Hamiduddin Ahmed, Mr.
Hassan Ali, Mr.
Hatem Ally, Khan Sahib.
Husan Ara Begum.
Ilias Ali Molla, Mr.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Kabir Ahmed Choudhury, Mr.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Shahibzada Kawan Jah Saiyid.
Khairat Hossain, Mr.
Khuda Bukhsh, Mr. Md.
Lutfar Rahman, Mr.
Lutfar Rahman, Mr. Dewan.
Madar Bux, Mr.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Mahammad Afzal, Mr. Syed.
Mahammad Owais, Mr.
Mahammad Sayeed Mia, Mr.
Majibar Rahman, Maulvi.
Malik, Dr. A. M.
Maniruddin Akhand, Mr.
Masiuddin Ahmed (*alias* Raja Miah), Mr.
Mazharul Haque, Mr. Abu Taiyab.
Mobarak Ali Ahmed, Mr.
Mohammad Sharif Khan, Mr.
Mohammed Ali, The Hon'ble Mr.
Mozammel Hossain, Dr.
Mudassir Hossain, Mr.
Muhammad Habibullah Chaudhury, Mr.
Muhammad Idris, Maulvi.
Muhammad Ishaque, Mr.
Muhammad Israil, Mr.
Muhammad Quasem, Maulana Haji.
Muhammad Qumruddin, Mr.
Muhammad Rukonuddin, Mr.
Muhammad Siddique, Dr. Syed.
Muzaffar Rahman Choudhury, Mr.
Najmul Huq, Mr. Mia.
Nasarulla, Mr. K.
Nawajesh Ahmed, Mr.
Nawab Ali, Mr.
Nazir Hossain Khandkar, Mr.
Nurazzaman, Mr.
Osman Gani, Mr. Md.
Paniruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Ray, The Hon'ble Mr. Nagendra Narayan.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Serajal Haque, Mr. Syed.
Serajuddin Ahmed, Mr. (Midnapore).
Serajuddin Ahmed, Mr. (Gaibandha).
Shamsuddin Ahmed, The Hon'ble Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Chowdhury (*alias* Badsha Mia), Mr.
Shamsuddin Sikdar, Mr. Md.
Sharfuddin Ahmad, Mr.
Suhrawardy, The Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tofazzel Hossain, Mr.
Yusuf Hossain Chowdhury, Mr.

The Ayes being 74 and the Noes 107, the motion was lost.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 8-15 p.m. till 4-45 p.m. on Friday, the 7th February, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 7th February, 1947, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 208 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Suffering of steamer passengers travelling between Chandpur and Goalundo.

*11. **Mr. NOWAB ALI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware that the public travelling by steamer from Chandpur to Goalundo and back suffer a great deal on account of—

(*i*) overcrowding;

(*ii*) insanitary condition of latrine and insufficiency thereof; and

(*iii*) inadequate light?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on account of overcrowding the steamer runs the risk of meeting with disaster in case of slight storm?

(*c*) Do the Government consider the desirability of taking steps so that the Steamer Company may provide two steamers from Goalundo to Chandpur and back?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, Minister in charge of the Home Department): (*a*)(*i*) Due to considerable increase in passenger traffic as compared with pre-war days both the up and down Chandpur Express Steamers are plying now-a-days to almost full-licensed capacity.

(*ii*) The number and type of latrines provided on board the steamers are as required in terms of rules on the subject and as approved by Ship Surveyors appointed by Government.

Adequate staff of sweepers are provided on board the steamers.

(*iii*) Electric lighting provided on board the steamers is as approved by Government Surveyors.

(*b*) The steamers do not carry more passengers than permissible in terms of the Survey Certificate issued by Government.

(*c*) Government consider that increased facilities are necessary for the passengers on the route but no improvement is possible until the steamers that were requisitioned by the military are returned to the Company.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE : মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলিবেন কি যে লাইসেন্সে যে যাত্রীর সংখ্যা নির্দ্দিষ্ট আছে তার অতিরিক্ত যাত্রী ষ্টীমারে বহন করে কি না?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE : মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় একথা কি বলতে পারেন যে ষ্টীমারে নির্দ্দিষ্ট সংখ্যক যাত্রীর অধিক সংখ্যক যাত্রী যায় না?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Generally it does not take up to full capacity, but owing to war condition it is now taking up to full capacity.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE : মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বল্‌বেন কি overcrowding হয় কি না?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: If it takes passengers up to full capacity, it cannot be said to be overcrowding, but some inconveniences are experienced by the passengers.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any inspecting agency to see if the actual facts prevalent in the steamers do tally with reports?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: There is a certificate of survey with terms of licence which is placed in a conspicuous place in the steamer. Everybody can inspect them and any complaint may be made on the report available in the steamer itself.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is satisfied that the rules are satisfactory?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: At least there has been no complaint against the existing rules.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE : মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বল্‌বেন কি যে ষ্টীমারগুলি নির্দ্দিষ্ট যাত্রী বা নির্দ্দিষ্ট মালের অতিরিক্ত যাত্রী বা মাল বহন করে না?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The number of passengers allowed is shown on the certificate of survey that is placed in a conspicuous place which can be examined by any one in every vessel.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE : মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বল্‌বেন কি যে নির্দ্দি সংখ্যক যাত্রী প্রভৃতির জন্য যে certificate of licence দেওয়া আছে কোন ষ্টীমার তার অতিরিক্ত যাত্রী বহন করে কি না এ সম্বন্ধে তিনি কি অনুসন্ধান করেছেন?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The tickets are issued and they are checked by the Joint Steamer Company and also there are inspecting staff on board the steamer to check the tickets. Besides that the serang also looks into the matter. If he sees that the steamer has been overloaded according to the licence, generally he does not ply the steamer. There is sufficient check with regard to this on board the steamer.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many passengers are permissible in Up and Down Chandpur Express Steamer?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I want notice.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the steamers requisitioned by the Military may be returned to Government?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The military has been asked to return the steamers. It is expected they would return them as soon as possible.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many steamers have been requisitioned by the Military?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I want notice.

Mr. MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: The Hon'ble Minister has stated that e serangs do not generally ply the steamers when they find them over-ıded or men on board more than the number of tickets sold. Will he be eased to state if it is a fact that they do not ply at all or they sometimes ?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: There have been cases when the serang refused o ply, because in that case the responsibility for any accident will be his.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased o state if he has ever received any complaint against overcrowding of the teamers?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be leased to state if the Government have not received questions like this ·ood many times during the course of last 10 years?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have no information.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware hat inconveniences were continuing even before the war period?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have no information.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased o state if the putting of this question is not a complaint against over-rowding?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I do not think so.

Health of certain pre-reform political prisoners.

***12. Mr. GNANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA:** Will the Ion'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the following pre-reform political prisoners have been suffering from ailments mentioned against their names and any other gross ailments of serious nature, viz.:—

(1) Prankrishna Chakrabarti—Heart troubles, chronic colitis, neurosis, ear trouble, pyorrhoea,

(2) Purnanda Das Gupta—Stomach and pulmonary troubles,

(3) Sitanath De—Stomach troubles,

(4) Prafulla Chandra Sen—Gout and toothache,

(5) Surendra Ch. Kar—Occasional signs of mental disorder,

(6) Hem Ch. Bakshi—Pleurisy, and

(7) Ambika Chakrabarti—Diabetes;

(*b*) how long these prisoners have been suffering;

(*c*) what remedial measures have been taken and with what effect;

(*d*) the terms of their conviction; and

(*e*) the date of their arrests and the total periods they have been in jail?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED [on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlur Rahman, Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department]: (*a*), (*b*), (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*). As all these persons have since been released, it is not considered that the expenditure of time and energy necessary to collect the nformation required would be justified and I am not prepared to arrange or the information asked for to be made available.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when these prisoners were released?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Some time in the month of August, 1946.

Mr. GNANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA: On a point of privilege, Sir. I think once a question is admitted, the Hon'ble Minister is bound to give the answer. But here the Minister says that he is not prepared to arrange for the information asked for to be made available. I think it is out of order, and I would ask you to give a ruling on this point.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is the answer of the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. GNANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA: Can be then answer any question in that way that he is not prepared to arrange for information?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes; if the Hon'ble Minister so likes, he can.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On a previous occasion the question arose whether the Speaker can exercise his power to determine what should be the nature of the answer. I looked into the relevant authorities and I gave my ruling on another occasion that the Speaker has no power to compel the answer to be given in a particular manner. So the Chair is helpless in the matter.

Mr. GNANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA: But, Sir, the question here is that the Minister cannot deny to give the answer when the question is once admitted. Here the Speaker is all powerful and he can say that the Hon'ble Minister is bound to give the answer.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already given my ruling, and the matter ends there.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any provision in law to look after the released prisoners?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: No.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the state of health of these prisoners when they were in jail?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: This question relates to a period when they were in jail. At the moment none of these prisoners are in jail. They had been released some time in August last; so it is not possible for Government to collect all information now and supply them to the members.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if these prisoners are still suffering as a result of their long detention in jail?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I have nothing further to add.

Number of primary schools and teachers in the Province.

***13. Mr. Md. ABDUS SALAM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

(*i*) the total number of—

(1) primary schools in the province,

(2) purely girls' primary schools among them,

(3) trained matric teachers—

(A) male, and

(B) female,

(4) untrained matriculate teachers—

(A) male, and

(B) female,

(5) trained non-matric teachers—

(A) male, and

(B) female, and

(6) untrained non-matric teachers—

(A) male, and

(B) female;

(*ii*) the pay of each class of teachers of primary schools; and

(*iii*) the names of the District School Boards that have hitherto been started?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of—

(*i*) introducing immediately the Free and Compulsory Primary Education in the Province; and

(*ii*) establishing the Provincial Primary School Board without delay?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain): (*a*) (*i*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*ii*) Pay—(1) Rs.16 per mensem for Headmasters; (2) Rs.12 per mensem for trained Assistant Teachers; and (3) Rs.10 for untrained Assistant Teachers.

(*iii*) District School Boards have been established in all the districts in the Province excepting Darjeeling and Midnapore.

(*b*) (*i*) Yes, as early as circumstances permit.

(*ii*) Yes. Steps are being taken for the establishment of the Central Primary Education Committee.

Statement referred to in clause a(i) of starred question No. 13.

The total number of—

(1) Primary Schools in the Province	40,108
(2) Purely Girls' Primary Schools among them ..	6,173
(3) Trained Matric Teachers—	
(A) male	6,043
(B) female	319
(4) Untrained Matric Teachers—	
(A) male	1,658
(B) female	338
(5) Trained non-Matric Teachers—	
(A) male	33,438
(B) female	463
(6) Untrained non-Matric Teachers—	
(A) male	48,170
(B) female	2,378

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any contemplation of Government to increase the salary of the poor primary school teachers?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Yes, it has been practically decided to increase the salary of the teachers.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, in view of the answer given in (*a*) (*ii*), whether the scale of salary mentioned in his answer is absurdly inadequate?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Yes, it is inadequate.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us what is the amout of increment that is proposed to be given?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I think it will be premature to give it out now.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that the primary school teachers gave notice of a strike just before the Calcutta riots and that they are again preparing for a strike?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I know that they had given notice of a strike before, but I do not know whether they have again given notice of a strike.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE : মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দয়া কোরে বল্‌বেন কি প্রাইমারী স্কুলের teacherরা এক বছরের আগে মাহিনা পায় না—যেমন গত মার্চ মাসের মাহিনা আজ পর্য্যন্ত পায় নি?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: It is not so.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of the primary school teachers actually attend classes and how many of them have taken to other businesses?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: As far as I am aware, they are attending to schools, but they may have been carrying on side businesses.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if these headmasters and teachers had been getting better salaries before they joined primary schools?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: No.

Mr. MD. ABDUS SALAM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the pay of these teachers will be increased?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: As I have said before, we are waiting for the approval of the Government of India, because it will be financed from the Government of India fund.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the districts in which the scheme of compulsory primary education has been enforced?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: It has not yet been enforced in any district.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Government move in respect of girls' primary schools is nothing but a farce?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the scale of pay given out by him is the minimum or the maximum?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: That is the only pay: there is no minimum or maximum.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: With reference to answer (*b*)(*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what will be the process of forming the Central Primary Education Committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: That is laid down in the Primary Education Act.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: In view of the fact that there are 52,544 untrained teachers, what steps are Government taking to accelerate the mode of training of these untrained teachers?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: A large number of training schools are going to be established in which untrained teachers will be trained.

Mr. MD. KHUDA BUKSH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the revised scale of pay will take effect and whether it will have retrospective effect?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: We propose to give restrospective effect from the 1st of October, 1946.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE : মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বল্‌বেন কি তিনি কি জানেন যে অধিকাংশ প্রাইমারী স্কুলের ঘর পড়ে গেছে অথবা বেড়া নষ্ট হয়ে গেছে এবং সেখানে টুল টেবিল নাই?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I cannot say that the majority of them have been blown down, but there are cases where some of the schools are in a dilapidated condition.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that under Circular No. 149 of the Education Department, this order has been passed—"Provided that if the Provincial Government is satisfied that the funds available to a Board are not sufficient to enable the Board to comply with the provisions of this rule, the Provincial Government direct that this rule shall not apply to such a Board" and that the teachers are getting less pay than has been given out by the Hon'ble Minister?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I do not know of any such circular. Without seeing the paper I cannot answer.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the difference between the pay of a primary school teacher and that of the Director of Public Instruction?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: That is known to the honourable member.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government will consider the desirability of raising the scale of pay of the primary school teachers so that they may maintain the minimum standard of living?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Some substantial increment is proposed to be given, but I do not think it will be quite enough.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: With respect to answer (*b*)(*i*), "Yes, as early as circumstances permit", is the Hon'ble Minister aware that he himself declared in the last budget session that in some three or four districts the compulsory aspect of the Free and Compulsory Education Act would be given effect to?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Yes.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in the district of Mymensingh, it has been contemplated that in only a few unions this Act will be given effect to?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: The idea is in five years to complete the area taken up. So, if two unions are taken up in each thana, in five years it will be completed. On an average there are only 10 unions in a thana.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that even an illiterate chaprashi draws much more salary than these teachers?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Yes, I am fully aware.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of giving effect to the compulsory aspect of this scheme in every thana at least of every subdivision particularly of those districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Yes, that is under contemplation. That is why the idea is to take up two unions of every thana each year.

Mr. AHMED KABIR CHAUDHURY : মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বল্‌বেন কি যে চট্টগ্রামের flood-affected areaতে যে সব স্কুল পড়ে গেছে তাদের জন্য special grant দেওয়া হয়েছে কি না?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Special grant for education—I am not aware.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the money that will be spent for compulsory primary education will be absolutely wasted if the scale of pay is not increased?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: That is why we have decided that some substantial increase in the pay should be given.

Introduction of honorary doctors in Victoria Hospital, Darjeeling.

***14. Mr. SHITANGSHU KANTO ACHARYYA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health Department be pleased to state whether Government Order No. 3390Medl. of 18th December, 1944, to introduce honorary doctors in Darjeeling Hospital was given effect to?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that there is no emergency ward in the Victoria Hospital;

(*ii*) that there is no arrangement of privacy in dealing with the V.D. cases; and

(*iii*) that the Civil Surgeon of Darjeeling pays no attention to it in spite of repeated request from the public?

MINISTER in charge of the HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*) Two honorary doctors have been working in the hospital even from before the issue of the Government order referred to.

(*b*) (*i*) There is no emergency ward, but patients are admitted directly to the appropriate wards.

(*ii*) There are sufficient arrangements for ensuring privacy.

(*iii*) No complaint on this matter was ever received by the Civil Surgeon, Darjeeling.

Mr. SHITANGSHU KANTO ACHARYYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly state if it is not a fact that the waiting room of the V.D. Clinic is on the verandah of the Darjeeling Hospital?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: That is not exactly the position. The position is this that there is a separate waiting room which has been converted into a V.D. Clinic and that is completely screened from the general waiting room and the entrance is separate and a door on the side is utilised by the patients for going out. So, satisfactory arrangement to ensure privacy has been made in the hospital.

Mr. SHITANGSHU KANTO ACHARYYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether the post of Civil Surgeon of Darjeeling has ever been held by an Indian up to this time?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: As far as I know, the post has not yet been held by any Indian. I would like to explain the position. Under the Act, certain posts are reserved for British Officers of the Indian Medical Service and some posts of Civil Surgeon are also reserved for them and Darjeeling is one of those posts.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, if the Minister has any hand in modifying that rule which should be remodified?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The question of modification does not rest with us, but, of course, I agree with the honourable member that there is need for modification and we believe there should be no reservation in the posts for British officers. As a matter of fact, there should be no discrimination, but we are powerless in the matter.

Mr. SHITANGSHU KANTO ACHARYYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly state if it is a fact that these non-Indian Civil Surgeons are always busy with their non-Indian tea planters and their gardens and thus they do not attend to their office duties or the hospital?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: We have not received any complaint so far, but the honourable member probably knows that members of the Indian Medical Service and the Bengal Medical Service are allowed private practice provided that does not interfere with their official duties and we have not so far received any complaint that the officers have neglected their official duties.

Mr. SHITANGSHU KANTO ACHARYYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any complaint record maintained in the hospital and whether there is any fixed hour for his attendance?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice. He has got to attend the hospital, there is no doubt, but I do not know whether there is any fixed hour and, if so, what are those hours. I am afraid I will have to ask for notice, if I have to give details.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if his source of complaint is the Civil Surgeon himself or somebody else? It has been stated in answer (*b*)(*iii*), that no complaint on this matter was ever received by the Civil Surgeon, Darjeeling. Has any complaint not been received from the Civil Surgeon or has any complaint not been received from anybody else also?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The Civil Surgeon there is the head of the medical administration in the district and we have made enquiries from him and he assures us that no complaint was ever received by him in the matter of inadequacy of privacy arrangements.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: The conduct of the Civil Surgeon himself has been questioned and complaints about him will naturally be made by other persons. Has any such complaint been received?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir, Government has not received any such complaint and the matter is not one which deals with him directly. V. D. Clinic is a separate establishment attached to the hospital and if there was any complaint regarding inadequacy of arrangement or inadequate arrangement for privacy, that complaint should have been lodged before the Civil Surgeon, but he has received no complaint and this does not exactly relate to his own department, because we have another doctor in charge of the clinic.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: With reference to answer (*b*)(*iii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to take note of this as amounting to a complaint of the absence of privacy?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, we made enquiries and we are satisfied that there is arrangement for privacy. Of course, I would agree that there is room for improvement and we feel that there should be improvement, but the arrangement for the present is adequate and I may tell the honourable member that there is a proposal for expansion of this hospital. We have got a Sanatorium in Darjeeling. We propose to dispose of it and acquire another plot of land adjacent to the hospital where we will make extension and as soon as that is done, there will be no difficulty regarding adequate arrangement for ensuring privacy to patients attending the V. D. Clinic.

Deputy Surgeon-Generals (Civil).

***15. Mr. ABDUL AZIZ MUNSHI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the present number of Deputy Surgeon-Generals (Civil) with the Government of Bengal; and

(*ii*) whether these Deputy Surgeon-Generals have been given any administrative work?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of giving them some administrative work?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: (*a*) (*i*) Three.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. MOHAMMED HABIBULLAH CHAUDHUDY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the nature of the administrative work given to the three Deputy Surgeon-Generals?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: One is in charge of the general administration of the Medical Directorate and he assists the Surgeon-General, another is in charge of the stores and medical supplies and the third one is in charge of the Auxiliary Government Hospitals, supervision work and work of administration.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long these Deputy Surgeon-Generals have been continuing in their respective posts without any transfer?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid, I will have to ask for notice, but the point is this that all of them do not belong to the Medical Service. One of them at least is on contract service and the post was created not very long ago and we thought it necessary to renew the contract and he is still continuing. Another of them is a member of the Bengal Medical Service and the third one is a member of the Indian Medical Service.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give the names of these three Deputy Surgeon-Generals?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: One is Major Obrien of the Indian Medical Service, another is Khan Bahadur Dr. Majed of the Bengal Medical Service and the third is Dr. Wajih who is on contract service.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Damodar Scheme.

1. Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state—

(1) whether it is a fact that representatives of Bengal Government discussed with the Labour Member of the Government of India the Damodar scheme in August, 1945;

(2) whether any definite decision was arrived at as a result of the aforesaid discussion; if so, what was it; and

(3) whether any definite step has as yet been taken by the Bengal Government with a view to give effect to that scheme? If so, what is the nature of the step taken and from which date it has been taken?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*)(2) be in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how much money will have to be spent to give effect to the scheme and of the total amount how much the Bengal Government will have to pay?

(*c*) If the answer to (3) be in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the work to give full effect to the scheme is likely to be finished and what are the advantages which Bengal is likely to derive from it?

MINISTER in charge of the DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION and WATERWAYS (the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukherjea): (*a*)(1) Yes.

(2) Yes. It was decided that a comprehensive study of the multi-purpose potentialities of the scheme should be made by the Governments of India, Bengal and Bihar.

(3) The charge of the scheme has been taken by the Government of India and steps are being taken according to the decisions in the conference.

(*b*) The rough estimate of the scheme is about Rs. 55 crores. Bengal's share has not been decided yet.

(*c*) The execution of a big scheme like this will take about 10 years to complete. The benefits which Bengal is expected to receive are flood control, irrigation, navigation and cheap electric power.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the policy of non-co-operation with the Central Government as was declared in the last session has been altered and the Bengal Government is going to co-operate with the Central Government in this Damodar project scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: I am afraid the policy of non-co-operation does not arise.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So far as that question is concerned, it does not come within the scope of this question.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many dams are going to be erected within the province of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: All the dams will be in the province of Bihar.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: In view of the conference held recently, will the Hon'ble Minister please elucidate further his answers (*b*) and (*c*)? A conference was recently held. This refers to August 1946. Is there any further information with regard to question (*b*) and (*c*)?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Another conference was held on the 19th January which was attended by the Irrigation Minister and the Chief Minister of Bengal besides the Minister from Bihar and other organisations interested in the matter, and I earnestly hope that the matter will be finally decided at a conference which will be held on the 15th of this month.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the execution of such a big scheme in which Rs. 55 crores are involved is likely to be commenced?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: It will be commenced as soon as the scheme is finally approved, and we expect that at least two of the dams will be taken up this year.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who is the authority for deciding the share of Bengal in connection with this scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: It is proposed that the entire scheme will be financed by loan and certain amount paid by the provinces and the Centre.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the proportion that Bengal is expected to finance?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: As has been already stated, the whole scheme is divided into three parts, viz., flood control, irrigation and.....

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: That is no answer to my question.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: I am coming to that. Don't be impatient.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This question is superfluous, because you will find in reply (*b*), Bengal's share has not yet been decided.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Subsequent to that the Hon'ble Minister said that it is proposed to finance by loan and the provinces were expected to bear a portion of the cost. Then I put my supplementary question as to what was the proportion which Bengal was expected to bear.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: When is it likely to be decided?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: By 15th of this month.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which districts of this province will be benefited by this scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Mostly the districts in West Bengal.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: I want to know the names of the districts.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Hooghly, Howrah, Bankura, Birbhum, Midnapore and Burdwan particularly.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Is Birbhum likely to be benefited in any way by this scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: There is another scheme, viz., the More Scheme which is under consideration.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: May we know what is the fate of that scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: It has not yet finally materialised.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what will be the approximate water cess per acre, if this scheme is effected?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: The details have not been decided.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to press reports that the Bengal Government has fixed its share of the cost of the Damodar Canal scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: I do not remember to have seen any such report.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you rely on press reports I am afraid I cannot allow the question.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: My question does not depend on press reports only.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can ask whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware. Press reports cannot be the basis of a question.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: All right, Sir.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any money out of the coffers of Bengal has been spent up till now?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Some expense has been incurred for preliminary survey work and such other work.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: How much has been spent?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: I am afraid I have to ask for notice.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government intend to deprive Bankura from the benefit of this scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Certainly not.

Mr. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: The Mesanjoli scheme is part and parcel of the More scheme. My question is what is the fate of that scheme?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This question is irrelevant.

Present Agricultural Income-tax Commissioner.

2. Mr. Md. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the name of the present Agricultural Income-tax Commissioner;

(*ii*) whether he had any previous training or knowledge of the Department; and

(*iii*) whether he was appointed in supersession of the claim of the present Assistant Commissioner of the Agricultural Income-tax?

MINISTER in charge of the FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*i*) Rai Bahadur Sambhu Charan Chatterji.

(*ii*) No. But he has considerable experience and knowledge of administration of Land Revenue which is required for the post.

(*iii*) No. It was thought necessary to appoint an officer of the rank of a District Officer to the post. The Assistant Commissioner is not an officer of that rank.

Scheme for betterment of conditions of service of work-sarkars.

3. Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Works and Buildings Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the present number of work-sarkars attached to the Works and Buildings Department; and

(*ii*) whether he is aware of the various grievances of the work-sarkars of the Works and Buildings Department regarding certain conditions of service, such as—

(1) temporary character of the service,

(2) absence of any fixed scale of pay,

(3) absence of any provision for leave or holiday, and

(4) absence of any fixed working hours?

(*b*) If the answer to (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, does he propose to take to redress those grievances of the work-sarkars?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in course of reply to a question on the floor of the Bengal Legislative Council in August, 1941, the then Minister in charge of Communications and Works Department gave an assurance that a scheme had after proper investigation been drawn up for betterment of the conditions of service of the work-sarkars and would be examined for inclusion in the following year's budget?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps have so far been taken to implement that scheme?

MINISTER in charge of the DEPARTMENT of WORKS and BUILDINGS (the Hon'ble Mr. Dwarakanath Barori): (*a*)(*i*) The information asked for is not readily available and the time and labour involved in collecting it will not be commensurate with the value of the result.

(*ii*) and (*b*) The grievances of the work-sarkars have already been examined. A copy of Government order No. 2759E., dated the 23rd August, 1946, allowing the work-sarkars certain improved conditions of service has been placed on the Library Table.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) *Vide* reply to question No. (*a*)(*ii*) and (*b*) above.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to whether these work-sarkars are now on the permanent cadre or temporary cadre?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Your voice is inaudible.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Can you hear me? My question is whether these work-sarkars are on the permanent cadre or temporary cadre. Is that audible, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKA NATH BARORI: Temporary cadre.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: In view of the fact that these work-sarkars are eligible to the permanent provident contributory fund, does that mean that they are still on the temporary cadre?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKA NATH BARORI: Temporary cadre.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: With reference to his answer (*a*)(*i*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is meant by the "value of the result"? What is his assessment of the value of the result?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I disallow that question.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: On a point of order, Sir. The answer (*a*)(*i*) touches our privileges. I would like to be enlightened by you as to who is to be the judge whether the time and labour involved in collecting the information will be commensurate with the results achieved. Who is to be the judge of that? We, on this side of the House, do believe that the time and labour involved would have been commensurate and would have been fruitfully spent. I want to know who is to be the judge as to whether the time and labour involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with the value of the result.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the Hon'ble Minister will decide that.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: The point I wanted to raise is this. I wanted information about the present number of work-sarkars but the Minister is evading the answer by telling me that the time and labour involved is not commensurate with the value of the result. For me it is essential to ascertain the number of work-sarkars in understanding the magnitude of the problem.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This question was raised by Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar and I held that there was no power for the Chair to interfere so long as the Hon'ble Minister couched his answer in a way that did not appear to be unparliamentary. So far as the nature of the answer is concerned, I have no control over the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these work-sarkars are given dearness allowance?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKA NATH BARORI: Yes.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, in view of the fact that for the last twenty years or so these work-sarkars were holding permanently temporary posts, whether he will consider the question of making these posts permanent?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKA NATH BARORI: I will consider the matter.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, if he is aware that the Government order he refers to in answer (*ii*) and (*b*), does not mention any dearness allowance being paid to these work-sarkars?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKA NATH BARORI: Dearness allowance is available to all Government employees, permanent and temporary.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: What is the amount of that dearness allowance?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKA NATH BARORI: It is in accordance with the rate prescribed by Government.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why the work-sarkars have not been made permanent, though they are serving, some of them at least, for more than twenty years?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKA NATH BARORI: The nature of their work is such that they cannot be made permanent.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Will the Minister be pleased to state.....

Mr. MOHAMMAD RUKNUDDIN: On a point of order, Sir. Is the honourable member entitled not to use the word "Hon'ble" when addressing the Hon'ble Minister for putting his question?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The honourable member knows that only a gentleman knows how to address another gentleman.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: On a point of order, Sir. Is the Hon'ble Minister in order when he says that a gentleman only knows how to address another gentleman? Does he mean to say that there are persons in this House who are not gentlemen?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think it is not necessary for me to give any ruling on this point.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: May I be permitted to say that I made no reference to anybody when I made that remark. However, I am sorry if I have thereby offended anybody.

Mr. ABU TAIYAB MAZHARUL HAQUE: The honourable member has not used the parliamentary form of language when addressing the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already said that it is not necessary for me to give any ruling on a point like this.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that the work-sarkars have formed an association of their own and whether he is prepared to recognise that association?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKA NATH BARORI: I will consider that question.

Former Director of Public Instruction, Mr. A. K. Chanda.

4. Mr. S. K. ACHARYYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether his attention has been drawn to the press reports that the former Director of Public Instruction, Mr. A. K. Chanda, was forced to go on leave due to undue interference in his official work; and

(*b*) what are the academic or administrative qualifications or experience of the acting Director of Public Instruction?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: (*a*) I have seen the press reports but Mr. A. K. Chanda applied for leave as he felt run down and was permitted to proceed on leave.

(*b*) Khan Bahadur A. M. Md. Asad, the acting Director of Public Instruction, is an M.A. and prior to this appointment he has been successfully holding the posts of Principals of Madrasah and Islamic Intermediate Colleges for about 20 years and have had varied experience of administrative work of the department. He also officiated as Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education for some time.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that Mr. A. K. Chanda put in his application for leave on medical ground?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Yes, in his application he put down that he was run down and wanted rest and so he wanted leave.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the leave he got was medical leave or general leave on average pay?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: General leave on average pay.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that when he was granted leave from the Education Department he was appointed a Special Officer in the Chief Minister's Department in connection with the recovery of the looted properties?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Not immediately, but one or two months after.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: When was this leave application granted?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I do not remember the date.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what sort of run-down condition he was in during this one month?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: It was not necessary for me to look into that. He had average pay leave due to him and he wanted leave on the ground of breakdown of health and we granted him the leave.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Director of Public Instruction on receiving a report from Mrs. Bakshi, Divisional Inspectress, recommended the transfer of the Maulvi from the Mymensingh Girls' School on a charge of

moral turpitude, but instead of accepting that recommendation, by a Ministerial order, Mrs. Bakshi was made to retire as being too communal and the Maulvi was retained?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: That is a fact, because it was a maliciously scandalous and false report.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the leave granted to Mr. Chanda was referred to His Excellency and that His Excellency objected to it?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Reference to His Excellency is not necessary at all.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that all the plans of post-war development schemes drawn up by the Director of Public Instruction and sanctioned by the previous Government and sanctioned by the Government of India who wanted to bear 50 per cent. of the expenses were not sanctioned by the present Hon'ble Minister and that on that ground the Government of India refused to pay any money?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: That is not a fact.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain why Mr. Chanda did not return to the Education Department in view of the shortage of senior educational officers?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: That is not for me to say. He wanted to go elsewhere.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the files of the Director of Public Instruction are sent for by the Hon'ble Minister and orders passed directly by him?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: It is a very vague question, "the files of the Director of Public Instruction".

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not allow that question.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that now-a-days some officers prefer Civil Supplies, Development and other departments to Education Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Yes, many officers of the Education Department left for Civil Supplies.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is within his knowledge whether Mr. Chanda showed any such preference?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: No, I cannot say.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that Khan Bahadur Md. Asad, who was made the Director of Public Instruction, subsequently, was a comparatively junior officer and officers senior to him were not given the post?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: There was only one officer senior to him, but he was employed elsewhere and for a short vacancy it was not considered proper to disturb him.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the name of that officer?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Dr. Snehamoy Dutt.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that other senior officers were found wanting in the department as a result of the Ministerial interference as in the case of Mr. Zakaria and Mr. Blackden?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: No, it is not a fact. Mr. Zakaria was a retired officer and after the period of his temporary appointment he had gone away.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to where Dr. Snehamoy Dutt was engaged?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: In the Methods Department, he was Deputy Secretary, and I may tell the House that he has since been made the Director of Public Instruction.

Refund of collective fines.

5. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he is aware of refunds of collective fines imposed during 1942 movement by sister Provinces in India;

(*b*)(*i*) whether he thinks it desirable to order for refund of collective fines,

(*ii*) if so, when, and

(*iii*) if not, why; and

(*c*) is it a fact that a civil suit has been instituted by a person in Dinajpur challenging the legality of imposing collective fine on him?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) I have seen reports to this effect.

(*b*) The honorable member is referred to the answer given to items (*c*) and (*d*) of starred question No. 9 by Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha on the 3rd August, 1946.

(*c*) Yes.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government is contesting the suit, in reference to answer (*c*)?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have no information. I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the suit was instituted?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: For that also I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give reasons why they are not following the other Governments in regard to refund of the collective fines?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: This Government is not bound to follow any other Government.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to enquire as to whether the Government are contesting the suit and what is the defence for contesting the suit?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I think that question does not arise at all. He has only asked in the question whether it is a fact that a civil suit has been instituted and I have answered in the affirmative.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: The Minister says that he is not expected to reply to any additional or supplementary question relating to the institution of the suit. Sir, I have only asked whether the Government are contesting the suit, and, if so, what are the grounds for contesting the suit?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have already replied that I want notice to state whether Government are contesting or not.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Maintaining of stud bulls and grant of free pasturage in Chittagong.

***16. Mr. AHMED KABIR CHAUDHURY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps are being taken in the district of Chittagong for Government maintaining of stud bulls and grant of free pasturage at least in the hilly areas of the district of Chittagong for improvement of cattle and agriculture; and

(*b*) what practical schemes have been undertaken by the Government to increase food products on scientific basis in the district of Chittagong?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Hossain): (*a*) It is proposed to establish a 2,000 acres Livestock Breeding Farm in Chittagong. This farm will mainly concern itself with the selective breeding of the red Chittagong type of cattle. It will also maintain flocks of improved poultry and carry out selective breeding of local goats. There are no Government stud bulls at present in the Chittagong district but it has been decided to put 50 bulls during the current year, 50 bulls during the next year and 30 bulls during the year after. Caretakers of the bulls will be given Rs. 15 per month each as maintenance allowance. Fodder seeds are being distributed at half prices to encourage the cultivation of fodder crops. Large quantities of mustard cake have been made available in the departmental seed stores for supply to cattle owners at very low prices. It is not the policy of Government to allow free grazing in their forests, but the charges which are levied for grazing or cutting of fodder in Chittagong area are only nominal.

(*b*) There are several schemes which have been worked in Chittagong with a view to increasing food production. Some of them are listed below:—

(*i*) Distribution of bonemeal which is a good manure at half its cost.

(*ii*) Distribution of ammonium sulphate which is a quick acting manure at half its cost.

(*iii*) Distribution of oilcakes at Rs.6 per maund ex-departmental seed stores.

(*iv*) Distribution of Persian wheels at half its actual cost.

(*v*) Distribution of vegetable seedlings at nominal prices.

(*vi*) Distribution of banana suckers and pineapple suckers at concessional rates.

(*vii*) Distribution of improved seeds of paddy and other crops at prevailing market rates.

In order to bring the Directorate of Agriculture in closer touch with the problems of the district, a new circle has been established with headquarters at Chittagong. A farm of 200 acres where improved types of paddy seeds will be raised is being established right now in the district.

Mr. FAZLUL QADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action Government is contemplating to take to increase the production of mustard seeds?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Government has a scheme at present.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the scheme in detail so that we may know when we can get mustard oil?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I am sorry, in a supplementary question, I cannot enunciate the details of the scheme.

Mr. FAZLUL QADIR: Whether Government is contemplating to supply mustard seeds for further cultivation at concessional rate for increased production of mustard oil. Whether there is any scheme or not?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I do not think that arises at present out of this question.

Mr. FAZLUL QADIR: Whether Government is making any propaganda to increase the production of mustard oil?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Government will consider this.

Mr. FAZLUL QADIR: Government propose to establish 2,000 acres farm in Chittagong for cattle breeding. Where is that land, and whether that has been acquired or under contemplation to acquire?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: So far as my information goes, land acquisition proceedings are in progress.

Mr. FAZLUL QADIR: Whether it has been notified in the *Calcutta Gazette* or not?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I ask for notice.

Mr. FAZLUL QADIR: Here the Hon'ble Minister has stated that grazing on Government land is permissible in the reserve forests. Whether buffaloes are allowed to graze in the reserve forests on payment of tax?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I do not think so.

Mr. FAZLUL QADIR: It is stated here—. It is not the policy of Government to allow free grazing in their forests, but the charges which are levied for grazing are only nominal. Are buffaloes allowed to graze or not?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Grazing is not allowed generally, but people are sometimes allowed to cut grass for the buffaloes on payment of fees.

Mr. FAZLUL QADIR: Government does not consider the desirability of protecting the buffaloes for cultivation purposes?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Government will consider the matter.

Suffering of people due to want of metalled road and a bridge in Munshiganj.

***17. Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether the Government are aware that—

(*i*) the people suffer a great deal for want of a good metalled road from the Munshiganjghat station to the Munshiganj town; and

(*ii*) for want of a bridge over the *khal* crossing the road from Munshiganjghat station to Munshiganj town?

(*b*) If the answer to clause (*a*) is in the affirmative, do the Government consider the desirability of asking the District Board of Dacca to move in the matter and of helping the Board with money for removing the grievances abovementioned?

Mr. S. A. SALIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Government have requested the Dacca District Board to assist the Munshiganj Union Board.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বল্‌বেন কি কতদিন আগে District Boardকে অনুরোধ করেছিলেন?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: About three months back.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government is making any financial assistance—subvention—for this purpose?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: No reply has yet been received from the district board.

Adjournment motion.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I gave notice of an adjournment motion on the indiscriminate firing on the Hajang men, women and children in Mymensingh, specially in the Susang area. Consent has been refused to it. I should like to know under what provision of the law consent has been refused on such an important matter where 23 people are reported to have been shot dead by the military and the police in Mymensingh in the Susang area.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Speaker has refused consent. I am not in a position to assign any reason as to why he has refused consent.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: But Mr. Deputy Speaker, this fact is not understandable to me at all.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Basu, if you like you can see the Hon'ble Speaker and discuss this matter with him.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: I should like to raise one point, because I feel that it is a very important matter and I should have got consent. As you are presiding, you are the Speaker today. I gave notice of this adjournment motion according to the rules before 12 o'clock and I do not know why you were not asked either to refuse or to give consent. Mr. Speaker is not here. I do not know where to find him—in Mymensingh or which part of India. It is not possible for me to go and find out the Speaker. I gave notice here in the office according to rules, and now I am told I have to go and find out the Speaker and ask him why consent has not been given. If this sort of practice goes on, I do not know what point there is in our coming here and waste the time in the Assembly. On the question of privilege, I should think you may give your ruling and tell me at least what privileges we have, so that we may not sit here like dummies if occasion arises.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a question of wasting time in the Assembly. It is a question of following the rules. Under the rules the Speaker does not cease to function only because he is absent from the Assembly. So this matter may be placed before the Hon'ble Speaker.

He has refused consent. I am not in a position to tell you the reason. I am, however, prepared to discuss this matter with you in my Chamber, if you want to do that. I will be able to throw some light, I think, on this subject, but I would like to do that in my Chamber.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, I feel like using very strong language with regard to this matter. Is it a sort of trick by the office, so that I cannot move in this matter, I cannot discuss this matter with the present Speaker who is sitting on the Chair? I would like to know that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you mean by trick? That is not an expression which should have been used.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, I feel that my privilege is being taken away. Whatever little privilege I had under the constitution is being taken away. According to rule, I handed over a notice. Nowhere in the rules it is stated that I have to go and search for the Speaker throughout Calcutta, that it should be left to me as a member of the House to go and search for the Speaker and get his permission. Now you are telling me on the floor of the House that because the Speaker is not here, Deputy Speaker cannot give me permission. If you say so, how can I proceed in this matter?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you are not satisfied with the existing rules, I would rather request you to move for the revision of the rules. Then, of course, I will be able to satisfy you. But as long as the rules stand, I cannot interfere with the powers and privileges of the Hon'ble Speaker. So I am helpless in the matter. It is not a question of wasting the time.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: On a point of order, Sir. Rules 96-101 of the Assembly Procedure Rules do not contemplate that Speaker will have to give his reasons for rejecting any adjournment motion whatsoever. If he rules it out, he can do that without assigning any reason whatsoever. My honourable friend on that side has no right to insist on an explanation from the Speaker.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: May I make one submission, Mr. Deputy Speaker? I think common sense tells us that you are on the Chair. You are acting as Speaker here, and why should I not get a reply from you. That is what I would like to know. In the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker takes his place with all his powers.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will refer you to rule 17 of the Assembly Procedure Rules. You will find that the powers of the Deputy Speaker have been defined there.. And under the rules that prevail now the Deputy Speaker can exercise the powers of the Speaker inside the Assembly Chamber only. If I were to exercise the powers of dealing with files, then the files would have been placed before me. But the files were not placed before me; they were placed before the Hon'ble Speaker.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: I would like to have a ruling from you on this point that it has been very improper on the part of the office to get permission of the Speaker when the office probably knew that the Speaker would not sit here today.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will refer you to rule 17 of the Assembly Procedure Rules.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: I have heard that, but the point is that you are acting as Speaker and the files should have been placed before you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is no use continuing discussions on this point. It may be that you do not like such things to continue, it may be

that I do not like such things to continue, but so long as the rules continue, you have got to abide by the rules. If you do not like the rules, you are free to move for the revision of the rules.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: So according to you this has been the proper procedure on the part of the office?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not like to give any opinion.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: I have another question to ask on a point of information, Sir, and that is whether I can again bring up this motion tomorrow or any other day or whether I would be told then that once you had brought it and it was discussed, it cannot be brought up again.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot tell you now what I will do, if you give notice of another adjournment motion. You may give that notice and the matter will be considered then.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: On a point of order, Sir. This discussion which is going on is perfectly irrelevant so far as the rules are concerned.

Demonstration in the Assembly House Compound.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, I saw on the papers that some boys, some school boys, were arrested in the Assembly. I should like to know whether it was on the orders of the Deputy Speaker, who was on the Chair yesterday that permission was given to the Police to arrest those boys inside the Assembly?

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: You are not much concerned with it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think it is not necessary for me to repeat what I said yesterday. All the honourable members are aware that when the first batch of demonstrators entered the precincts of the Assembly House, the Council was in session. When the Deputy Commissioner of Police concerned and the Commissioner of Police approached me, I advised them to take orders from the Hon'ble President of the Council. The Hon'ble President ordered that further demonstrators should not be allowed inside the Assembly House compound. After the Council sitting was over I followed the decision taken by the Hon'ble President, because I found it to be reasonable. As regards the arrests, the honourable members know that the Deputy Commissioner of Police sent a note that the demonstrators were attacking the Police, and it was necessary to arrest them. I placed this matter before the honourable members of this House for eliciting opinion from the leaders of the different parties, and my honourable friend knows what happened yesterday. I could not reply to the note of the Deputy Commissioner of Police and after the Assembly meeting was over I went to my Chamber and it was brought to my notice that some students or some demonstrators—I do not know whether they were students—were arrested, because they actually assaulted some police officers. One of the Sergeants showed me an injury and another Inspector of Police had to be sent to hospital for medical aid, and the demonstrators were arrested on that account. So far as I am concerned, I wrote a letter to the Hon'ble the Chief Minister to deal with the demonstrators leniently.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, may I be permitted to refresh your memory further. I was present in your room when the Deputy Commissioner of Police approached you with regard to the instructions you gave for prevention of the demonstrators from further entering into the compound and he asked for your instructions as to what he would do, if the demonstrators became violent and if they wanted to

break the cordon and attack the police. Your definite instructions were that all consequential steps should be taken and the instructions given were carried out by the police. The police were instructed to take all necessary steps so that no more demonstrators could come in.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was not necessary for the Hon'ble Finance Minister to make this statement, because the question raised by Mr. Basu related to particular incidents. He wanted to know whether arrests were made under my definite instructions and I have replied to that. So far as the statement of the Hon'ble Finance Minister is concerned, it was not necessary at all, and I can assure the Hon'ble Finance Minister that he need not be apprehensive about my stand. I am fully conscious of the responsibility of the office I hold and gave my orders to the Deputy Commissioner of Police according to my conscience and sense of responsibility.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I wanted to make it clear that you took the right step and we agreed that the best possible instructions were given. What I wanted to make clear was that you gave instructions that all consequential steps should be taken by the police.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was not necessary. If the Deputy Commissioner of Police thought that it was not necessary for him to arrest, he might not have arrested them; he might have given only a warning to the demonstrators. Specific action was not taken under specific instructions from me. I only passed general order.

Point of Privilege.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: I rise on a point of privilege, Sir, Two important Bills are laid on the table and we are called upon to give notices of amendments in the course of a day or two. Yesterday the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill was laid on the table and we have been asked to send our amendments by 3 p.m. tomorrow. I think it encroaches on the privileges of the members of this House. Such Bills should have taken 15 days' time to give notices of amendments. Of course, the power was vested in the Speaker under rule 51 to allow motions at shorter notice, but there are so many Bills affecting the economic interest of a vast number of people. The Bargadars Bill was laid on the table and amendments were invited within a day or two. Then comes the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill. It was laid on the table only yesterday and we are called upon to give notices of amendments by 3 p.m. tomorrow. I think that is really infringing the rights and privileges of the members of the House. Such Bills are of far-reaching importance and require careful investigation. So, Sir, I rise on a point of privilege and want your decision on the point.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, in support of the submission made by my Deputy Leader, I may say that the rules require three stages of notices. First, there should be 15 days' notice for the motion for introduction; next, there must be a definite motion after introduction which cannot be taken up unless copies are made available to the members for some specified period—that period is in some cases 7 days and in some cases 15 days—and the motion for consideration can only be taken up after the requisite period has been given to the members. In this case the House opened only on the 3rd and now amendments are to be given by the 10th. This, I submit, is in absolute disregard of the constitutional procedure, and you, Sir, as the guardian of the rights and privileges of the Opposition as also of the other members of the House should see that no such things are done and that time is extended to study the Bill and to put in amendments and then the time is fixed for consideration and the passing of the Bill.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: With regard to the point raised by my honourable friend, I find that the Speaker did suspend the rule on this occasion. For the present, I do not see any reason to revoke the decision of the Hon'ble Speaker. As for the future, I will see that the Bills are taken up in accordance with this rule.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: On a point of order, Sir. My submission is that so far as these rules are concerned, the Speaker is entitled to suspend the rules for the requisite period for giving notices. But I submit, Sir, in all these cases the Speaker must interpret the intention of these provisions in accordance with the general frame-work of rules, and if he exercises his power, he must exercise it in the spirit in which these rules have been framed. It may be that on special occasions the Speaker may be called upon to exercise his special powers but if this becomes the normal procedure and if the Bengal Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill and the Bargadars Bill are introduced under this cover, I submit with all the emphasis I can command, that the rights and privileges of the Opposition would be trampled upon through this backdoor method by the Government.

Mr. A. F. STARK: May I make one submission, Sir, that honourable members should be allowed to take short-notice amendments in view of the short time allowed for tabling the amendments? If we could know that you would give your consent to tabling of short-notice amendments in view of the fact that there has not been proper time for giving notices of amendments, we have no objection.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not possible for me to tell you now what attitude I will take up on the amendments at short notice. That will be decided when the notices will be given.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: I know that the Speaker has got the power to suspend this sub-rule, but I want to know the position. It seems to me that on the 3rd February, there were a good number of Bills that were sought to be introduced, considered and passed. It seems in this session Government want to rush through a large number of legislation. They cannot be called legislation, but really ordinances. Really members will not be given opportunity to consider those Bills and table amendments. Sir, in future you will please see that this rule is not suspended.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not say that. I have not suspended.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: You say that you want to extend some justice to us, but I want to know the Government position. If the Government is really determined to rush through these pieces of legislation without any opportunity to the Opposition to place amendments and without having any discussion here on such all-embracing legislation affecting the interests of a large number of people, I shall consider them as ordinances and not legislation.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Sir, a submission was made by Mr. Sinha on which we would like to have your opinion as to whether this is going to be a regular procedure to suspend rules or it will be only used on exceptional occasions and whether you would consider that this was an exceptional occasion, although you can say that you are not concerned with this. There was a second submission in regard to amendments which we were asked to submit by tomorrow. We wanted a further extension, because the time given was really very short. You may take the sense of the House and if you think it proper, will you kindly extend the time till Tuesday next, because we are not sitting on Monday?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So far as the first question is concerned, I am not in a position to say what will be done in future. If you will

kindly go through the rules once again, you will find that this power to suspend rules in most cases has been given to the Speaker to meet contingencies. The Hon'ble Speaker probably thought that occasion fit for suspending the rule. That is why he suspended the rule. So, I cannot say what will happen in future.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: I was not speaking of the future. I was just bringing to your notice what has been done, whether this was considered a normal or exceptional circumstance for permitting such kind of suspension. I did not project myself to the future at all.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: We really regret that Bills have to be introduced at short notice and very little time is given to the Opposition to consider them, but I hope the members will realise that we have so much work to do and so little time to do them in that we must cut short the period of waiting. Bengal has been waiting for a very long time for all kinds of ameliorative measures and the people of Bengal cannot brook any further delay. It is very necessary that we must speed up our work and I hope the members of the Opposition will give us this privilege of trying to do good work for the people of Bengal in as short a time as possible. Sir, we have gone through a lot of trouble during the last few months and everything was probably thrown out of gear. The Legislative Department is working at high pressure and working overtime to cope with the demand of various Government Departments to draft legislative measures. Therefore, the Bills, the principles of which were accepted by Government, have not been possible to be translated into legislative draft by that department and that is the reason for the delay. I hope the members will permit this notice to be given at short notice and as the honourable member of the European Group has said, I would also support his demand to the Speaker to permit short-notice amendments and Government on their side will have no objection if short-notice amendments are accepted by the Hon'ble Speaker. I hope members will give this matter their serious consideration and allow these draft measures to go through as expeditiously as possible and in as short a time as possible for the good of the people of this province.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if that be the position taken up by Government, while thanking them for allowing us to move short-notice amendments, I submit that even if the rules allow the Speaker, the power to suspend this notice, I think, Sir, the way in which that rule has been used is unconstitutional and *ultra vires*. My submission is this. Even if the Speaker has to suspend this sub-rule, I feel that it should have been mentioned specifically in the notices that have been sent to us and we ought to have been informed beforehand that the Speaker has suspended this sub-rule and the Bills would be taken up in such a hasty manner.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would request you to consider whether it would be proper to discuss the decision of the Speaker.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: It is not my intention to discuss the decision of the Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you think that the Hon'ble Speaker has adopted a procedure of that kind, you may draw the attention of the Hon'ble Speaker.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: It is not a question of drawing the Hon'ble Speaker's attention. It is a question of interpretation of the rules. It is not a question of personal decision. It is a question of precedent which I want to establish in this House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: From that point of view, if the Speaker thinks that it is necessary to suspend the rules, he can suspend the rules. On this occasion, he thought it necessary to suspend the rules and he has suspended them.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: My point is this. Are we to come here and then be informed that the Speaker has suspended the rules or are we to be informed beforehand that the Speaker has suspended the rules and the Bill will be taken up at such a short-notice. If that be the procedure, then every day we will be coming here and raising our objection only to be told that the Speaker has exercised his discretion and Bills will be rushed through the Legislature.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will ask the Secretary to note your objection whether it has to be mentioned in the circular that the Speaker has suspended the rules.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: It is not for the Secretary to note down, but for you to direct whether such procedure is to be followed or is not to be followed. The method is unconstitutional and the spirit of the rule has not been adhered to and the notice that has been given in the present instance is quite unconstitutional.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not agree with you. After all, it is not a matter for discussion.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Sir, I did not have your reply to my second submission as to whether you would extend the date or not, about this particular bill—the Bengal Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill—on which we have to submit our amendments by tomorrow. But tomorrow is Saturday and the Assembly is not sitting.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I have decided to accept amendments up to 3 p.m. on Monday next.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: On Monday we are not sitting.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The office will maintain a skeleton staff on Monday. You may send your amendments by post.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: As you know, Sir, postal service is undependable. That really amounts to not giving us extension. If you really want to assist us, please extend the time till Tuesday, because one cannot possibly come on Monday.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unfortunately Mr. Ghose, I am told by the Government that the Bill will be introduced on the 13th. Unless the office gets one day's time, it will be difficult to manage.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Tuesday is 11th, Sir. If the office wants one day's time, 11th will be all right. If you like you can extend the time till 12 or 1 o'clock. Still give us some time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We can now proceed with the business of the House. I shall discuss the matter with the Secretary and let you know later.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: I hope Sir, that you will consider also our difficulty and not merely the difficulty of the office.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

NON-OFFICIAL BILLS.

The Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1946.

Mr. JASIMUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce the Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1946.

(Secretary then read the short-title of the Bill.)

(When Mr. Deputy Speaker was going to put the motion for leave to vote.)

Mr. JASIMUDDIN AHMAD: That is not necessary, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Where a member of the Treasury Benches moves for leave, it need not be put to vote, but when a private member moves, the motion has got to be put to the House.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: If the Bill is published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, then no motion for leave is necessary. It is simply introduced. But when a Bill is not published in the Gazette, then the leave of the House should be obtained first before the Bill is introduced. Then the Speaker says that the member has got the leave of the House.

The Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1946, was then by leave of the House introduced.

Then Bengal Fisheries Bill, 1946.

Mr. HARAN CHANDRA BARMAN: Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce the Bengal Fisheries Bill, 1946.

(Secretary then read the short-title of the Bill.)

The Bill was then by leave of the House introduced.

The Bengal Village Self-Government (Enfranchisement of Women) Amendment Bill, 1947.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce the Bengal Village Self-Government (Enfranchisement of Women) Amendment Bill, 1947.

(Secretary then read the short-title of the Bill.)

The Bill was then by leave of the House introduced.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Sir, I beg to move that the Bengal Village Self-Government (Enfranchisement of Women) Amendment Bill, 1947, be taken into consideration.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, এই বিল উত্থাপন করতে গিয়ে আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টকে এই কথাই বলছি যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট যদি এই বিল আনতেন তাহ'লে ভাল করতেন, কারণ ভারতবর্ষের যে সমস্ত প্রদেশে Village Self-Government Act রয়েছে সে সমস্ত প্রদেশে মহিলারা ভোটাধিকার পেয়েছেন। Bombay Village Panchyet Act, 1930 (section 7)এ Adult Franchise অর্থাৎ তাতে মহিলারাও তাঁদের ভোটাধিকার পেয়েছেন। শুধু তাই নয় তাঁরা মেম্বার হতেও পারবেন। Madrasএ ১৯৪৬ সালে ১২ নম্বর আইনে মহিলাদের ভোটাধিকার স্বীকার করে নেওয়া হয়েছে। Madras Village Panchayet Actএর 10 (2) ধারায় স্ত্রী-পুরুষ নির্বিশেষে সকলের ভোটাধিকার আছে। আমি কেবলমাত্র দুইটি প্রদেশের নাম করলাম এইজন্য যে বাংলা যদি Bombay ও Madrasএর সঙ্গে সমান তালে না যায় তাহলে অত্যন্ত দুঃখের কথা হবে। বোম্বাইএ যে আইন হয়েছে

এটা আজ থেকে ১৪ বৎসর আগে পাশ হয়েছে অর্থাৎ ১৯৩৩ সালে হয়েছে। ১৯২৫ সালে যখন গভর্ণমেণ্ট অব্ ইণ্ডিয়া এ্যাক্ট হয় তাতে নারীর ভোটাধিকার স্বীকার করে নেওয়া হয়েছে। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় আজ ১৪ বৎসর পরে একজন Non-officialকে এই বিল আনতে হয়, এটা অত্যন্ত দুঃখের বিষয়। এটা গভর্ণমেণ্টের অগ্রণী হয়ে আনা উচিত ছিল। যদিও আমি এই কথা বলতে পারি যে গ্রাম্য স্বায়ত্তশাসন বিভাগে যিনি মন্ত্রী তাঁর কাছে মহিলারা এই বিষয় নিয়ে একটা Deputation পাঠিয়েছিলেন তখন তাঁকে এই sessionএর পরের session এ যাতে মহিলারা ভোটাধিকার পান সেজন্য বিল আনয়ন করবার কথা বলা হয়েছিল। আইনে বিধান রয়েছে every adult male person; এই male কথাটা উঠিয়ে দিলেই তো আপদ চুকে যায়। আজকে আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টকে এই কথাই বলছি এবং অনুরোধ করছি যে যদি তাড়াতাড়ি এই রকম একটা বিলে, male শব্দটি বাদ দিয়ে আনয়ন করা হয় তাহলে লক্ষ লক্ষ মহিলা ভোটাধিকার পেয়ে যান। শুধু Adult Person থাকলে লক্ষ লক্ষ নারী ভোটাধিকার পেয়ে যাবেন এবং Village Self-Governmentএর member হতে পারবেন। আমি তাই বলবো যে, গভর্ণমেণ্ট যদি এটা derogatory মনে না করেন এবং এই বিল গ্রহণ করেন তাহলে খুব ভাল হয়। যেমন Bombay Actএ উল্লেখ আছে "All adult persons who are eligible under the Bombay Local Self-Government Act, shall be entitled to vote for the elections". আর একটা কথা আমি বলবো যে মহিলাদের পক্ষে যাতে বেশী ভোট পাওয়া সম্ভব হয় তার জন্য চেষ্টা করতে হবে। একটা কথা হ'ল যারা বাড়ীর মালিক, যারা সেস্ দেয়, যারা union rent দেয়, তারাই যদি ভোটাধিকার পায় তাহলে কথা হচ্ছে, সাধারণতঃ মহিলাদের নামে জমি থাকে কম সুতরাং তাদের পক্ষে সে সম্ভাবনা নাই এবং তাঁরা বাড়ীর মালিক নন এইজন্য union rent দেওয়ার সুবিধা তাঁদের নাই। সেইজন্য এই কথা বলা হচ্ছে যাঁদের স্বামী কিম্বা পিতা ভোটাধিকারপ্রাপ্ত তাঁদের স্ত্রী বা কন্যারা যাতে ভোটাধিকার পান এবং প্রাপ্তবয়স্ক সকলের ভোটাধিকার প্রাপ্তির ব্যবস্থার জন্য আমি অনুরোধ করছি।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Has Mr. Gupta received a copy of the Bill?

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: No.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is there any objection then to the consideration motion being taken up?

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: The procedure generally is to move introduction and the general practice is that after introduction, if a copy of the Bill has not been circulated the business can be finished in ten minutes, by taking up introduction motion only. The consideration can be taken up after copies of the Bill have been circulated. I do not know whether Nikunja Babu has done it. With regard to my Bill, I have not done it, and I will only move introduction.

Mr. MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: So far as Nikunja Babu's Bill is concerned many of the members told me that they had not received copies of his Bill. Under rule 51 proviso it is laid down that "Provided that no such motion shall be made until after copies of the Bill have been made available for the use of members and that any member may object to any such motion being made, unless copies of the Bill have been so available for fifteen days before a motion under clause (*a*) or for seven days before a motion under clause (*b*) or clause (*c*) is made, and such objection shall prevail, unless the Speaker in exercise of his power to suspend this sub-rule allows the motion to be made."

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: I have said that copies of my Bill have been sent to all the members and here are several copies with me. I submit that some members have got the Bills and others have not. That means that they may have forgotten to bring their copies.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. If any honourable member makes a statement that he has not received a copy of the Bill, I will accept the statement to be correct.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, when the motion for consideration was moved, there was no objection, and Government has raised this question at this late stage. Further the honourable mover has said that he is prepared to circulate fresh copies. (VOICES FROM GOVERNMENT BENCHES: It is prayer time now, Sir.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is prayer time now and I will decide the question after prayer.

(The House was then adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(*After adjournment.*)

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I think, Sir, after my statement the position will be clarified and the motion not pressed. Government is considering a comprehensive amendment of the Local Self-Government Act, and I have received representations from ladies regarding enfranchisement of women so far as the district boards are concerned. We have decided that we should extend this franchise to women. This matter was also discussed in a conference of Chairmen of District Boards, and that conference was unanimously of opinion that the franchise should be extended to women and therefore this will be included in our comprehensive Bill. So far as the question of giving franchise to women in Union Boards is concerned, that is a matter on which we have not yet taken any decision, because there are a lot of complications and difficulties. Honourable members know that franchise has been extended to women so far as the Legislative Assembly and Council and the Municipalities are concerned. But the response has not been as great as we had expected. Therefore it is not yet ripe to give franchise to women in union boards. But even then this matter is being considered by Government and we have not yet decided either for extending the franchise or for not extending the franchise, that is, we have still kept an open mind and we will consider the matter as sympathetically as possible, but so far as giving franchise to women in district board is concerned, we have decided to extend the franchise and we shall include the provision in the comprehensive Bill which we propose to bring before the next session of the Legislature.

In this view of the matter, I hope the honourable member will not press for his own Bill either for consideration or for introduction and if he will withdraw the Bill on the basis of this assurance, I am sure it will meet his purpose.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: It has been introduced, only consideration may be withdrawn.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: So far the Bengal Village Self-Government Amendment Bill is concerned, that has already been introduced, but in view of the statement that the Hon'ble Minister has just now made, I do not press for the consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: What I wanted to say is this. He has moved for consideration. Now he is willing to withdraw the motion. He must take the leave of the House to withdraw the Bill.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Maiti now wants to withdraw the motion for consideration of the Bill. Has he got the leave of the House to withdraw?

(There was no objection.)

The motion of Mr. Nikunja Behari Maiti that the Bengal Village Self-Government (Enfranchisement of Women) Amendment Bill, 1947, be taken into consideration, was then by leave of the House withdrawn.

The Bengal Commercial Firms Bill, 1947.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Bengal Commercial Firms Bill—last year I gave notice, so it is 1946; with your permission let it be 1947.

(Secretary then read the Short Title of the Bill.)

The Bill was then by leave of the House introduced.

The Bengal Local Self-Government (Enfranchisement of Women) Amendment Bill, 1947.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Bengal Local Self-Government (Enfranchisement of Women) Amendment Bill, 1947.

(Secretary then read the Short Title of the Bill.)

The Bill was then by leave of the House introduced.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: In view of the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister, I do not press for its consideration.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have decided to extend the time for receiving amendments to the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Bill up to 12 noon on Tuesday. It has been brought to my notice that forms are not available in office. There is no harm if honourable members give notice of amendments in plain paper.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 6-55 p.m. till 4-30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 11th February, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 11th February, 1947, at 4-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 215 Members.

Oath of allegiance.

Mr. H. A. Luke, elected by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce Constituency, took his oath of allegiance.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Compensation and rehabilitation of evacuees of Feni subdivision.

*18. **Mr. MD. HABIBULLAH BAHAR CHOUDHURY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Land and Land Revenue Department be pleased to state if it is a fact—

(*i*) that thousands of people of Feni subdivision were evacuated under Defence of India Rules for war emergency in 1942 and subsequent years and thousands of homesteads were requisitioned;

(*ii*) that the evacuees did not get legitimate compensation;

(*iii*) that when houses were measured and counted many huts were omitted and in many cases proper and correct measurement could not be taken because everything was done in a hurry;

(*iv*) that in case of thatched and corrugated tin huts only the plinths were measured and not the projections and as a result the evacuees did not get legitimate compensation;

(*v*) that compensation for land, trees and loss of profession has not been regularly paid in many cases; and

(*vi*) that even after the war in many cases homesteads are not being promptly derequisitioned and as a result evacuees are being stranded in these days of flood and famine?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether he is considering the desirability of appointing a committee to enquire into the evacuee problem of Feni and elsewhere and redress the grievances of the people; and

(*ii*) what steps Government are going to take for the rehabilitation of the evacuees?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlur Rahman): (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) No, it is not a fact. Adequate compensation was paid to the evacuees.

(*iii*) There was hardly any case of omission at the time of recording the huts.

Inflated measurements rather than short ones were recorded in some cases, which were detected later on.

(*iv*) Yes, in assessing replacement cost, the measurement of the plinth was taken into account and not that of the eaves as that is the normal procedure. The evacuees have not been in any way deprived of their legitimate dues.

(*v*) It is not a fact. In some cases, there has been unavoidable delay in making payment but such cases are very few.

(*vi*) Derequisitioning is effected immediately on receipt of military sanction. There has been no undue delay in derequisitioning the homesteads.

(*b*) (*i*) This is not considered necessary but a Special Officer of great ability and experience has been deputed to enquire into grievances.

(*ii*) Re-entry costs are being paid to the evacuees to facilitate their rehabilitation on their old homesteads.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what principles were followed by Government to recover the compensation that has already been paid to the evacuees? Is he aware that compensation that had been paid has been recovered?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Yes. There was some excess payment for which Government had no other alternative but to recover the excess.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how the excess payment was made?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: There was some overlapping. As a matter of fact some payments were made in duplicate.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the items—how they were duplicated?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in some cases compensations were paid for fruit-bearing trees and for land and now the compensations paid for fruit-bearing trees are being recovered though they were the main income from the lands?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: All the matters have been thoroughly enquired into by the Special Officer deputed for that purpose who has submitted a report which, I think, is very favourable to evacuees and is under the consideration of Government. After it has been taken into consideration by Government, I think some relief will be given to the evacuees.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Sir, this is not a reply to my question. He says everything is in the report. I wanted to know whether he is aware that payments were made for a piece of land in two ways (*1*) for fruit-bearing trees and (*2*) compensation for land itself. The charge for the fruit-bearing trees was much higher and now that higher amount is being recovered and the paltry amount that was paid for the land is being realised.

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I am not aware whether there are any such troubles, but there were some troubles.

Mr. MUHAMMAD RUKNUDDIN: Is the Hon'ble Minister prepared to furnish the members of this House with copies of that report which has been submitted by the Special Officer?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: It is not yet meant for publication.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the name of that Special Officer?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Rai Bahadur S. Gupta.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the basis of compensation?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Trees, houses, and tanks and other things were taken into consideration in making assessments.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if sanction for derequisition is obtained at the initiation of the Government or the military do it of their own accord?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: No. Government takes such initiative.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many cases are pending against the evacuees?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I think it is irrelevant. No such question arises, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you repeat the question?

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: How many cases are pending in courts of Feni against evacuees for entry into their homesteads?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This supplementary question does not come within the scope of the main question.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is contemplating to pay for the damages made to the lands and homesteads and so on and so forth?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Government has already made payments, but whenever any complaint will be received, it will be enquired into. Some complaints have been enquired into and the reports have been received by Government which are under their consideration.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: That is not the reply to my question. I wanted to know whether Government is going to give any compensation for disfiguring the lands?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Every case will be considered on its own merit.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Whether Government is going to give any compensation for changing the character of those lands, for digging holes and for, what is called reshaping the lands for military purposes?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: In making assessments everything is being taken into consideration.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps Government is contemplating to take to remedy the 33 grievances of the people recorded by the gentleman who was sent for enquiry?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I have already said that the Special Officer deputed for the purpose has submitted a thorough report: that report is still under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government paid any compensation whatsoever for fishes and for poultry?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Yes, so far as I know, Government has made some provision for compensation for the damages done to the fisheries and the poultry.

Mr. MUHAMMAD RUKNUDDIN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the rate of compensation paid to the people of Singarbil is quite inadequate?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: On a point of order, Sir. The honourable member put the question regarding Singarbil, but my question relates to Feni only.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already disallowed that question.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the necessity for deputing a Special Officer of ability and experience?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: On the complaints of the evacuees Government thought it necessary to depute a Special Officer.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN (Noakhali): Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the people of Begumganj and of the adjoining thana were evacuated and their homesteads and orchards were destroyed?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I am not aware of it.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: On a point of order, Sir. The other day, in reply to a question of Mr. Haran Chandra Ghosh Chowdhury the Hon'ble Minister said that the rate of compensation for the remaining thirteen *maujas* will be given shortly, but now he says that adequate compensation was paid to the evacuees.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the complaints that were made to the Special Officer and what action did the Special Officer take on those complaints?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Generally the complaint was with regard to the assessment made for the payment of compensation. And as there were some definite cases of complaints, the Special Officer went to the locality, made an enquiry and submitted a report to the Government.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how could he reconcile between the two replies —one given to the question of Mr. Haran Chandra Ghosh Chowdhury and the other given to mine. In one he says that adequate compensation will be given shortly and in the other he says that adequate compensation was paid.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Chaudhury, I have said I will not allow this question.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: With reference to answer (*b*)(*ii*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the minimum amount that is paid to a family of four members as re-entry costs?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: The amount does not depend on the number of members in the family: it depends on the amount of compensation that he is actually entitled to.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: On a point of order, Sir. Will you kindly explain on what ground the supplementary question of Mr. Muhammad Habibullah Chowdhury was refused by you. There are certain grounds on which questions may be refused. I want to know the ground.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ghose, I am afraid, I will not give any reason.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Arising out of answer (*b*)(*iv*), namely, that in assessing replacement cost, the measurement of the plinth was taken into consideration, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the eaves are excluded though much money had to be spent by the people to raise the eaves?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Wil the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when and by whom this rate of compensation was laid down?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I ask for notice.

Contractors under Public Health Department.

*19. **Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the present number of the contractors registered in different classes in the Public Health Department in different branches;

(*b*) the number of them that are—

(*i*) Muslims, and

(*ii*) Scheduled Castes,

in each of the classes; and

(*c*) contracts of how much monetary value were given to—

(*i*) Muslims, and

(*ii*) members of the Scheduled Castes, in the year 1945-46 in the different branches, works, supplies and tube-wells (figures may be separately given).

Mr. S. A. SALIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*) (*i*) Construction contractors—

Class I	...	57
Class II	...	104
Class III	...	55
		216
(*ii*) Supply contractors	...	34
Total	...	250

(*b*) (*i*) Construction contractors—

Muslim	...	70
Non-Muslim including Scheduled Castes	...	146

(*ii*) Supply contractors—

Muslim	...	5
Non-Muslim including Scheduled Castes	...	29

(*c*)(*i*) Monetary value of contracts given to Muslim contractors during 1945-46 is Rs.1,22,219—

		Rs.
Tube-wells—		
Supply	...	39,616
Works	...	75,401
Other works—		
Supply	...	Nil.
Works	...	7,202
		1,22,219

(*ii*) Monetary value of contracts given to Scheduled Caste contractors is not available as no record is maintained in the Directorate of Public Health Engineering to show which of the non-Muslim contractors are members of the Scheduled Castes.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to answer (*b*)(*ii*), how many of these 5 Muslim contractors out of a total of 34 belong to Classes I, II and III?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I ask for notice.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: In view of the fact that out of 250 contractors only 75, that is 30 per cent., are Muslims, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to admit that there are grievances of the Muslims in this respect?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Surely.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps Government are taking to redress the grievances?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Already a circular has been issued to the Directorate.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: With reference to answer (*b*)(*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the monetary value of the contracts given to the Hindus and the Scheduled Castes?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I have nothing further to add.

Point of order.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: On a point of order, Sir. I was referring to rules 26 and 28 of the Assembly Procedure Rules as regards the admissibility of a question. I was just trying to find out as to whether the question that was put by Mr. Muhammad Habibullah Chowdhury was in contravention of the provisions of rule 26, and why was it disallowed.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ghose, I would request you to kindly look to rule 28 where you will find your answer.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Yes, Sir, I have seen that. But that was in relation to rule 26. Is it your contention, Sir, that that rule gives the Speaker absolute power, without assigning any reason, to admit or not to admit a question?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ghose, I do not think any useful purpose will be served by entering into a discussion on this point. But as far as I can understand, rule 28 says that the Speaker has the power to decide on the admissibility of a question with reference to the provisions of

these rules. Certainly he has got to conform to the provisions laid down in rule 26, but at the same time rule 26 does not take away the character of finality of the ruling given by the Speaker.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: But, Sir,.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry, I do not want to discuss the reasons.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: I was not trying to be difficult at all. I will bow down to all your rulings but I wanted a clarification of the point as to whether, on reference to rule 26, you can disallow any question.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Mridha.

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the contracts of how much monetary value were given to contractors other than Muslim in the different classes of contracts?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I want notice.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the reason for Muslims getting lesser works?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I have nothing further to add to the answer I have given. Most probably the Muslim contractors never applied when tenders were called.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Does Government think that Muslim contractors are not able to submit earnest money and does he think it proper to do away with the earnest money?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: The matter will be looked into.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any standards are prescribed for enrolment of such contractors?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Yes, as far as construction is concerned—Class I, Class II and Class III. As far as supply is concerned, no standard.

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he proposes to follow the Communal Ratio Rules in registering the contractors and in allowing the proportion of contracts given to the contractors?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: As far as possible consistent with the efficiency of the work.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether contracts are distributed on the basis of the communal ratio?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: No.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of contracts given to the Scheduled Castes?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I ask for notice. It is very difficult to know the number. If you look to answer (*c*)(*ii*), you will find that we could not find out which of the contractors belonged to the Scheduled Castes.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why a record is not maintained to show the value of the contracts given to the Scheduled Castes?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I cannot give you any answer offhand, but the matter will be looked into.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Does Government desire to maintain such record in future?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Surely it will be considered.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any relaxation of the rules or standards, as referred to, is ever made?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: It has never been brought to our notice.

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is willing to maintain a register to record the number of contractors belonging to the Scheduled Castes?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: As I pointed out, there is no register at the present moment but it will be considered.

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Hon'ble Minister proposes to take to allot a sufficient number of contracts to Muslims? I may explain why I am putting the question. In answer to my question, the Hon'ble Minister has said that the Communal Ratio Rules will be followed as far as practicable and in answer to another question put by another member.....(Laughter).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not allow the question.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government has given any direction or contemplate to give any direction to the department concerned to observe the communal ratio in the matter of giving contracts?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Communal Ratio Rules will be maintained but not at the cost of efficiency.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the register was opened?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I ask for notice.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what amounts were spent during 1945-46 under construction as well as under supplies separately?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I ask for notice.

Requisitioned houses in the town of Comilla.

*20. **Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Land and Land Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that many houses were requisitioned by the military authorities in the town of Comilla for military requirements; and

(*ii*) that many such houses had been abandoned by the military and had remained vacant for a pretty long period and yet they are not made over to their respective owners?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in the town of Comilla many such houses requisitioned by the military and abandoned by them are not made over to their respective owners but taken possession of by the Magistrate who lets them out?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state under what authority the Magistrate is doing such things?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlur Rahman): (*a*)(*i*) Yes.

(*ii*), (*b*) and (*c*) On the termination of the war and gradual departure of the military from Comilla, the requisitioned houses were still retained by the district authorities for other urgent necessities of Government. The necessities arose out of war operations.

(*d*) The Magistrate has power to keep these military requisitioned houses under requisition for civil purposes.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us under what Act the Magistrate can keep those houses for civil purposes?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Under the Defence of India Rule think, when the properties were requisitioned under the Def Rules.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: The properties were requisitioned for military purposes and the military abandoned those houses and after that, under what Act the Magistrate requisitioned those houses for civil purposes?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: It was never derequisitioned. Once it is derequisitioned, it is derequisitioned for all time to come. But once it has been requisitioned, the Magistrate can possibly keep it under his possession for civil purposes as well.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is it not a fact that these houses were requisitioned for military purposes?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Yes, they were originally requisitioned for military purposes.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us what is the urgent necessity of the Government?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: My friend knows that the Sadar subdivisional headquarters as well as the district headquarters were shifted from Comilla to some other place and those headquarters had to be taken back to Comilla and as a result houses were urgently necessary for accommodation of the offices and of officers as well as lawyers and other people. Government think it advisable to keep those requisitioned houses and properties till other houses are available.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether the owners of the houses were consulted before they were used for civil purposes?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: It is not necessary to consult the owners of the houses.

Mr. JOGENDRA CHANDRA DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the District Magistrate has got the power to keep those houses for quarters of civil officers?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Yes, I have already stated.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURDY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that when the houses were requisitioned for military operation, definite promises were given to the people that the houses would be derequisitioned just on the termination of the war?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: No such promise was ever given.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the same principle is applied with regard to the houses constructed by the military?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: This question has got no concern with the construction by the military.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Does the same principle apply that the Magistrate can keep those things under his possession?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sabur, your question does not come within the scope of question No. 20 because the question relates to requisitioning or derequisitioning of houses at Comilla. Yours is too general a question.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the houses under requisition for civil purposes include residential accommodation for Government officers?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Yes.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Does the Hon'ble Minister mean to say that Government officers should have preference to the ordinary civilian population for residential accommodation?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: It is only a temporary arrangement. When the headquarters of the district and the sadar subdivisions were transferred to Comilla, it was the first duty of the Government to arrange accommodation for the offices and the officers concerned. The people whose houses have been requisitioned may make some other arrangement for their dwelling houses and they may wait for some time. But the offices had to be shifted and accommodation had to be made for them.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলবেন কি যে মিলিটারী purposesএর জন্য যে বাড়ী নেওয়া হয়েছে civil purposesএর জন্য সেগুলি রেখে দেওয়া হয়েছে, কিন্তু যাদের বাড়ী তাদের বসতি করবার জন্য কোন ব্যবস্থা করবার চেষ্টা করবেন কিনা?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I think my honourable friend does not know that almost all the houses before they were requisitioned used to be let out by the owners.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA : বাড়ীগুলি যে ভাড়া দেওয়া হয়েছিল সেটা কি তাঁরা ইচ্ছা করে দিয়েছিলেন, না গভর্ণমেণ্ট জোর করে নিয়েছিলেন?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: My friend has not followed me. Before the houses were requisitioned owners used to let them out to the people and they used to get rent from those persons. Now the difference is that owners get the rent direct from Government.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA : মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলতে পারেন কি যে যতগুলি বাড়ী মিলিটারী নিয়েছিল এবং যা civil purposesএর জন্য রাখা হয়েছে তার প্রত্যেকটি ভাড়াটে বাড়ী—একথা কি বলতে পারেন?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I have already stated "almost all".

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the percentage of houses that were occupied by owners and those that were occupied by tenants?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: A negligible percentage. I cannot give the exact figure.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of the houses acquired for military purposes are now used for civil purposes?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Water-supply in rural Bengal.

*21. **Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN (MYMENSINGH):** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the scheme, if any, for spending the money provided for water-supply in rural Bengal, in the coming year's budget;

(*b*) whether he is aware that a comprehensive scheme for water-supply in rural Bengal was prepared by Government Circular No. 940(5)-P.H., dated the 12th July, 1939;

(*c*) whether the Government is now taking up the scheme and the money provided in the coming year's budget (1946-47) will be spent in accordance with the aforesaid scheme; and

(*d*) if not, why not?

Mr. S. A. SALIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*) Post-War Development Scheme No. 187 provides for rural water-supply. A statement of the nature and objectives of the scheme is laid on the Library Table.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) and (*d*) That scheme was drawn up several years ago and had to be dropped due to war conditions. In view of the changed circumstances since and in the light of the experience gained meanwhile, Government have adopted a revised policy as incorporated in the Post-War Development Scheme referred to above, but in actually giving effect to this scheme the information available from the previous scheme, particularly as to the sites for tube-wells, etc., may be useful.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister tell us whether there is any chance of giving effect to this scheme in course of this year—this post-war development scheme?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: During the current year out of a total allotment of Rs. 50 lakhs sanctioned, Rs. 20 lakhs have been allotted for new sources of rural water supply.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is practically no arrangement for supply of drinking water in rural Bengal?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Yes.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister give us an idea of the number of tube wells which Government propose to sink in the course of this year?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I want notice. I have already said that Rs. 20 lakhs have been allotted. I cannot give you the exact number of tube wells to be sunk.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the tube-well system of water supply in rural areas is practically inadequate?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: According to the Bhore Committee recommendations the sources of water supply are one for every 500 of the population, while in the long term the recommendation is for one for every 200 of the population. The scheme is being considered by Government.

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which is the agency through which Government propose to sink tube wells this year?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Money is allotted to the District Magistrate who has got a District Water Supply Committee and he settles it in consultation with the Chairman of the District Board.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister tell us who will supply the information as to sites of tube wells to be sunk?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: There is the District Water Supply Committee which select the sites.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: What are the main points of difference between the two schemes old and revised?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I want notice.

Mr. JASIMUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us if he has got the permission of the Hon'ble Speaker for laying the statement on the Library Table?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I think that the statement has already been laid on the Library Table.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister give us some idea as to the composition of the District Water Supply Company? Is there any company in every district?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Not company but committee.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTAPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how much money was sanctioned last year and how much has been spent, and if the entire amount has not been spent, why it has not been spent?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: The amount of money sanctioned last year was Rs. 10 lakhs for rural water supply. I cannot give you off-hand the amount spent last year. I want notice.

Enquiry Committee of Medical College.

*22. **Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HUQUE:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health and Local Self-Government Department aware that a Committee was appointed in pursuance of resolution in the Bengal Legislative Assembly sponsored by Maulvi Abdul Latif Biswas, ex-M.L.A., to enquire into the allegations of criminal breach arising out of gross mismanagement by Mr. K. S. Mitra, the Secretary of the Calcutta Medical College Hospital?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a copy of the report of Enquiry Committee?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action if any has been taken by the Government in this connection?

(*d*) If no action was taken, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

(*e*) Is it a fact that Mr. K. S. Mitra was suspended?

Mr. S. A. SALIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The report of the Enquiry Committee is a confidential document. It will not be in the public interest to place a copy of the same on the Table.

(*c*) Mr. K. S. Mitra was informed by the Secretary of the Department that but for the long time that had elapsed since the submission of the Enquiry Committee's Report, Government would have drawn up proceedings against him with a view to reprimanding him for certain irregularities which were brought to light and also for his lack of candour in answering the questions of the Enquiry Committee. The Account Rules of the Hospital have also been amended on the lines suggested by the Enquiry Committee.

(*d*) Does not arise.

(*e*) No.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Did Government ever enquire as to the cause of delay in submission of the report by the Enquiry Committee?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I want notice for that.

M. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Is it a fact that the replies given by the said officer were found to be false by the Enquiry Committee?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I told you the report of the Enquiry Committee is confidential.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HUQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is his authority for saying that the report is confidential? What is his source for his telling us that it is confidential—under which rule or under which law?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: For the sake of public interest the report is confidential.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the report was submitted?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: In 1943.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Why did not Government take any action against the officer?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the irregularities that were brought to light as a result of this enquiry?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: That is confidential.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is prepared to allow Mr. Huque and for the matter of that any member of the House to go through the report if the latter meets the Hon'ble Minister in Writers' Buildings?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: The matter will be given due consideration.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HUQUE: Is it not an infringement of the rights and privileges of the members of this House not to accept the recommendations of a Committee the personnel of which was composed entirely of the members of this House and which was set up by this House?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: That was a decision arrived at by the previous Government.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Sir, the Committee was appointed on the authority of a resolution moved in and passed by this House and so I doubt how can the report of that Committee be pronounced as a confidential report. I think by that a serious encroachment has been made on the privilege of the members of this House, for the personnel of that Committee was composed of the members of this House by means of a resolution. It was not a departmental committee appointed by Government, and as such the report of this Committee should not be shelved as a confidential report. If that report is to be treated as a confidential report, then this House is the only competent authority to term it like that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it a point of order or a point of privilege?

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: It is a point of privilege, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I find the question is couched in this language: "Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that a Committee was appointed in pursuance of a resolution in the Bengal Legislative Assembly sponsored by Maulvi Abdul Latif Biswas, ex-M.L.A., to enquire into the allegations of criminal breach arising out of gross mismanagement by Mr. K. S. Mitra, the Secretary of the Calcutta Medical College Hospital?" Neither the question nor the answer discloses what was the personnel of the Committee. It merely says that this Enquiry Committee was appointed in pursuance of a resolution, but it does not say that the Committee consisted of members of this House or of members as well as outsiders. So we are not in a position to know the personnel of the Committee and Mr. Sabur Khan will realise that there is nothing on this paper to show that this was a Committee appointed as a result of the passing of a piece of legislation of this House. If it was a Committee appointed to enquire into the matters of an institution under the control of the Government, then the Government is competent to treat the report as confidential.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: But my contention is that nowhere is it stated that the report of the Enquiry Committee was to be treated as confidential.

Mr. JASIMUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who were the members of that Committee?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: In pursuance of the resolution passed by the Bengal Legislative Assembly on 20th April, 1939, the Government of Bengal appointed a Committee of Enquiry consisting of Mr. K. Shahabuddin, Mr. W. A. M. Walker, Mr. J. N. Basu and the Principal of the Medical College, Calcutta, ex-officio.

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be prepared to reopen the question and deal with the report and make a statement as the circumstances demand?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why this report was treated as confidential?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: As I have already said, in public interest.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether by the publication of this report or by placing this report before the members of this House public interest will suffer by the revelation of the fact that there were many officers who had been implicated in that corruption?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the actual loss incurred by Government due to those irregularities?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it will not be proved on an investigation of the report that Mr. K. S. Mitra was made a scapegoat in the game and that is why the report has been treated as confidential?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Is the Hon'ble Minister prepared to admit that the report cannot be treated as confidential until the rules of this Assembly are changed?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Is it in the public interest or is it against public interest that this report is termed as confidential?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: It is in public interest.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the intention of this resolution sponsored by Maulvi Abdul Latif Biswas was to bring to light the corruption instead of keeping them concealed?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a matter of opinion.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the report drawn up by this Enquiry Committee may be examined by another Committee of this House to be set up to examine in camera in this case?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he will be prepared to set up a committee representing all parties in this House in order to study the report and to enlighten this House about its content consistent with public safety?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: It will be considered by Government.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state before this House what were the terms of reference made to the Enquiry Committee?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: The resolution runs as follows:—

"This Assembly is of opinion that a committee consisting of five members, namely, three members from the members of the Bengal Legislative Assembly, the Principal, Medical College, Calcutta, and one member with audit qualification, be formed immediately to enquire into the financial administration and the working of the Medical College Hospitals, Calcutta, primarily with respect to the preparation of estimates and acceptance of tenders, stock clearance and stock-taking and other matters of allied nature".

In pursuance of the above resolution the Government of Bengal were pleased to appoint the Committee of Enquiry.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who was the Superintendent of the Medical College Hospitals during the period of management in question?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I think it was Col. Boyd.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have now something to say about this Committee of Enquiry. After the disclosure of the names of the members of the Enquiry Committee by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Hon'ble Minister, I find that all the members of the Committee appointed in pursuance of a resolution of this House were members of the Assembly except the Principal of the Medical College. As such, in my opinion this matter should be referred to the Committee of privileges to decide whether the report of that Committee should be kept concealed from this House. On my own motion I refer the matter to the Committee of Privileges for consideration whether the report of the Enquiry Committee should be kept back from the House.

Nomination of members to some union boards in Tippera district.

*23. **Mr. NOWAB ALI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he is aware that one Akram Ali, a military employee still in military service, has been nominated as a member to Panchgachia Union Board in Daudkandi police-station in the Tippera district; if so, what is the reason for it;

(*b*) whether he is aware that a tax collector of Gobindapur Union in Daudkandi police-station in Tippera district has been nominated as a member to Barkanta Union Board in Daudkandi police-station in Tippera district; and

(*c*) if the answers to clauses (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for doing so?

Mr. S. A. SALIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*) One Akram Ali has been nominated as stated, but he is not in military service.

(*b*) One Altafuddin Ahmed has been nominated. He is a clerk of the Gobindapur Union Board, not a tax collector.

(*c*) The District Magistrate made the nominations on the recommendation of Mr. A. R. Chowdhuri, M.L.A., Chairman of the Tippera District Board.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is the practice of the Minister concerned to give ditto to the recommendation of the District Magistrate?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: As far as the nomination of Union Board is concerned, the panel is made by the District Magistrate.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us whether there was the recommendation of the Circle Officer with regard to this union?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Generally the Circle Officer sends his recommendation to the District Magistrate who sends it to the Chairman of the District Board for his information. After that he makes the nomination.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us whether the recommendation of the Circle Officer agreed with the recommendation of the Chairman of the District Board?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: As far as my information goes, no.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the nomination has been in contravention of the provisions of the Self-Government Act?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I do not think so.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Is it one of the privileges of the M.L.As. to recommend people for nomination to the District Board, Municipality and Union Board?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: No.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if employees of the Board can be nominated to that board or any other board?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: The person concerned is not an employee of that Board.

Distribution of quinine in the district of Khulna.

***24. Dr. MD. MOZAMMEL HOSSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health (Medical) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how much quinine has been distributed in the district of Khulna in 1945-46, 1944-45;

(*ii*) how it was distributed; and

(*iii*) whether it was distributed only through registered medical practitioners?

(*b*) If the reply to clause (*a*)(*iii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what arrangements were made to extend medical services and treatment of the poorer section of the rural areas; and

(*ii*) what is the quantity of quinine that was distributed amongst them?

Mr. S. A. SALIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*)(*i*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) The drugs were not distributed through registered medical practitioners alone but also through Charitable Dispensaries of Government, District Boards, Union Boards and Village Dispensaries, Non-Official Voluntary Relief Organisation, Satellite Treatment Centres, Provincialised and A.G. Hospitals, Epidemic Centres, K.A. Camps, Mobile Medical Units, Rural Health Units and through Subdivisional Officers and Presidents of Union Boards and other agencies.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Statement referred to in clause (a)(i) of starred question No. 24.

During the year 1944-45 and 1945-46, the following anti-malarial drugs were distributed in the district of Khulna:—

1944-45.

Sale.

Q. S. Powder.	Q. S. Tablets.	Mepacrine Tablets.	Quinine Ampoules.
965 lbs.	299 lbs.	1,486,000	1,112 boxes.

Free.

Q. S. Powder.	Q. S. Tablets.	C. F. Powder.	C. F. Tablets.	Mepacrine Tablets.
390 lbs.	348 lbs.	343 lbs.	135 lbs.	1,500,000

1945-46.

Sale.

Q. S. Powder.	Q. S. Tablets.	C. F. Powder.	Q. Bihy.	Mepa-Tablets.	Q. Ampoules.
351 lbs.	67 lbs.	49 lbs.	2 lbs.	2,042,000	480 boxes.

Free.

Q. S. Powder.	Q. S. Tablets.	C. F. Powder.	C. F. Tablets.	Mepa-Tablets.	Q. Ampoules.
24½ lbs.	23 lbs.	274 lbs.	6 lbs.	899,000	28 boxes.

Dr. MD. MOZAMMEL HOSSAIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why sale and distribution of quinine are so much reduced in comparison with the year 1944-45? Sale in 1944-45 was 965 lbs., it was reduced to 351 lbs. in 1945-46. Free distribution in 1944-45 was 390 lbs., it was reduced to 24½ lbs. in 1945-46.

Mr. S. A. SALIM: As it has been required by the Civil Surgeon the amount of quinine has been supplied.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government are aware that there is dearth of quinine in the rural area of Bengal?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Of course, there is dearth of quinine.

Dr. MD. MOZAMMEL HOSSAIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the village doctors who are really treating the poor villagers are not getting quinine supply?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: If they do require quinine they should apply to the Civil Surgeon.

C.I.D., Bengal.

***25. Mr. MD. ABDUS SALAM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) when the C.I.D., Bengal, was started;

(*ii*) whether any Muslim officer was ever appointed as Assistant to the Deputy Inspector-General, C.I.D., Bengal;

(*iii*) how many officers were appointed as Deputy Superintendents of Police of C.I.D., Bengal, since the starting of the department and how many of them were Muslims; and

(*iv*) whether the Assistant to the Deputy Inspector-General, C.I.D., Bengal, and Deputy Superintendent of Police of the same are always Hindus?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of appointing a Muslim as the Assistant to the Deputy Inspector-General, C.I.D., Bengal, and Deputy Superintendent of Police?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*)(*i*) 1906.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) Records do not extend beyond 1912. From 1912 to date there have been 44 Deputy Superintendents of Police in the C.I.D. of whom 6 have been Muslims.

(*iv*) No.

(*b*) It is not proposed to replace the present Assistant to the Deputy Inspector-General who is a Hindu nor any of the present Deputy Superintendents of Police.

Mr. MD. ABDUS SALAM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, in reference to question (*iii*), the names of the three officers?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. MD. ABDUS SALAM: Whether any or all of them are honorary?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. MD. ABDUS SALAM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any Muslim Deputy Superintendent of Police was appointed for crimes, if so, what is his name?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Sir, I cannot understand the question. I said there are 6 Muslims out of 44.

Method of quinine distribution in Jessore.

***26. Dr. BHOLANATH BISWAS:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Health (Medical) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the method of quinine distribution amongst the private practitioners of the Jessore district and other districts along with the distribution of quinine ampoules;

(*b*) whether there is any compulsion for taking of Mepacrine quino-crine or atebrin tablets;

(*c*) whether for any malpractice prevailing at the Civil Surgeon's office or the Quinine Rationing Officer's office and the Quinine Depots at Jessore and other districts the private medical practitioners are compelled to go to the districts for receiving the small quantity of quinine; and

(*d*) if the answer to (*b*) and (*c*) are in the affirmative will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

Mr. S. A. SALIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*) In districts, private practitioners having their own dispensaries are generally selected and appointed as selling agents of Government anti-malaria drugs by the Civil Surgeons with the approval of the District Magistrates. They are supplied with quinine mepacrine and quinine ampoules for retail sale. Permits for purchase are issued by the Civil Surgeons who are the District Quinine Rationing Authorities and the agents get the drugs from the respective district or subdivisional jails, which are the storage and distributing centres, on production of the permit. During the three months of November and December, 1945, and January, 1946, all registered medical practitioners as well as unregistered practitioners of five years' standing approved by the Civil Surgeons were allowed quinine sulphate for their own practice up to a maximum of half a pound per month without any proportionate quantity of mepacrine. This scheme has been reintroduced from September, 1946. Government quinine ampoules are also issued to registered medical practitioners on a rationed basis of 2 boxes of six ampoules each per month.

(*b*) Due to the shortage of quinine its issue has been restricted and is allowed with a certain percentage of mepacrine tablets in case of all purchasers and free distributing agencies as well.

(*c*) No report of any malpractice in connection with the supply of anti malaria drugs in the quinine rationing or distributing centres has been received by the Bengal Health Directorate. The method of obtaining anti malaria drugs by private practitioners is described at (*a*) above. As quinine and mepacrine are stored in District and Subdivisional Jails, permit-holders have to go to the Jail Offices to obtain supplies.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Mepacrine has been found much more dangerous than quinine?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: That is a matter of opinion.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that in spite of a large supply of quinine remaining with the Government Mepacrine was pushed simply because it is a British product?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: No.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বলবেন কি যে মেপাক্রিন্ খেয়ে মধ্যে মাঝে লোক যে পাগল হয়ে যায়—একথা তিনি জানেন কি?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I think there is a certain amount of dose. If you take that amount it will not affect.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he himself has ever taken Mepacrine?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: No.

Acquisition of houses and paddy lands in Asansol.

*27. **Mr. BANKU BEHARI MONDAL:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Land and Land Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that many houses and paddy lands in the subdivision of Asansol were acquired by Government for the construction of quarters of soldiers during the war;

(*ii*) that during the time of acquisition the Government promised to return the acquired houses and lands after the war;

(*iii*) that these houses and lands have not yet been returned to their owners though they have applied to the Government for the same; and

(*iv*) that the annual compensation for the lands for the last two years have not been paid to the owners?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of taking immediate steps so that the owners of acquired lands get back their houses and lands with their arrear compensation?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlur Rahman): (*a*)(*i*) Only a few were acquired. Most of the properties taken over were requisitioned under rule 75A of the Defence of India Rules.

(*ii*) No.

(*iii*) Out of 200 buildings so requisitioned 163 have already been returned to the owners, and out of 10,130 acres of land requisitioned 3,936 acres have been released up to date.

(*iv*) Annual compensation up to 1351 B.S. has been paid in full and payment for 1352 B.S. is going on.

(*b*) The remaining buildings and land will be restored as soon as the military and civil authorities in occupation can vacate.

(After the printed answers were read out.)

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this question may be held over, because there is no time to put supplementary questions?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You want it to be carried over?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Yes, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question stands carried over.

There is a request from the honourable members of this House that there should be a recess for Asar prayer. I adjourn the house for 15 minutes for prayer.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Adjournment motion.

Mr. BROJOMADHAB DAS: Sir, I tabled an adjournment motion on the recent happenings at Saidpur where there was a communal riot. More than 30 persons were murdered and hundreds of houses were also burnt. I see that consent has been refused to that motion. May I know the reason for withholding consent? It is a matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Das, it is not the practice of this House to assign reasons for refusing consent to an adjournment motion, but in short I may inform you that the motion of which you gave notice does not mention any date when the occurrence took place. As far as it has been possible to ascertain, the occurrence took place on the 28th and 29th of January. So there has been delay. This is one of the main reasons for which consent has been refused.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: May I submit one thing, Sir? Of course the date has not been mentioned in the motion itself, but in the short statement mention has been made of the date. I do not know, Sir, if 28th or 29th has been mentioned——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sinha, you cannot discuss this point. The main reason is delay.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, may I make another submission in this connection to which attention was drawn on the last occasion. I think a point was made out by an honourable member of this House that if the Speaker is not going to preside over the deliberation of this House, the files should not better be referred to him but should be referred to the Deputy Speaker or to the Chairman who is going to preside over the deliberation of this House, so that in cases of difficulty, he may be in a position to elucidate the matter which he has, I submit, on several occasions, done in this House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not possible to know beforehand whether the Speaker is turning up or not. In fact, I received intimation today about one o'clock that I would have to preside over the proceedings of this House.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, as you said, it was not provided anywhere that the Speaker has to give any reasons for his decision, but, Sir, on grounds of urgency adjournment motions are moved. The object is that if a thing is of recent occurrence and if it is a matter of urgency, then on account of urgency, the normal business of the House has to be adjourned in order to allow a discussion on the particular urgent point of recent occurrence. In view of that, Sir, it is essential that the incumbent of the Chair who is conducting the business of the House should have an opportunity himself personally to bring his judicious mind to bear on the subject to consider whether there is urgency about it, whether the question is of recent occurrence, and whether it is an urgency of such a degree that

the normal business of the House should be adjourned with a view to allow a discussion over this subject. Adjournment motions relate to this. I do not see, Sir, how this matter can be considered by an absentee incumbent of this Chair who unfortunately under circumstances has to remain absent in course of the last few days. Sir, you are presiding over the deliberation of this House. May I submit, Sir, if any particular difficulty arises so far as you are personally concerned—because you came to know only today, as you say, that you would have to preside over this House—you may in fairness to this House and in fairness to your own discretion reserve the consideration on this point, so that you may, after mature deliberation, think out, after considering the matter yourself, whether this motion may be left open and the ground of urgency may be waived in favour of this because you have not had a chance of considering this matter yourself.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am bound to act according to rules. I shall have to decide according as the rules would allow me to decide. The Speaker is not an absentee, in the sense in which you have called him an absentee, only because he is not presiding over the deliberations of this House. He is doing all other works. I am afraid, I cannot say anything more.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: While functioning as Speaker all the powers of the Speaker are vested in the Deputy Speaker. Therefore the powers to decide as to whether consent should be given to such a motion, whether such a motion is in order or not—all such powers vest in the Deputy Speaker while he is actually conducting the deliberation of this House. He is under the rules entitled to discharge all the functions of the Speaker. There can be no division of the Speaker's functions in this way that a particular incumbent of the Chair who happens to be absent and has had no opportunity to listen to the members should still be in a position to give his opinion on it. You, Sir, are entitled to give your opinion on this matter yourself.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have nothing more to add to what I have said.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I gave notice of an adjournment motion on the failure of Government to settle the Calcutta Tramway Workers' strike even on the 21st day by prevailing upon the Tramway Company to meet the just demands of the employees, and I also find that consent has been refused by the Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Basu, kindly state your point specificially. I cannot allow a speech or your reading of the adjournment motion.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, I have finished my reading of the adjournment motion. The point is that I find that consent has been refused, and once more I would like to know the reasons under which provision of the Rules of the Assembly Procedure consent has been refused on such an urgent matter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your motion does not comply with the provisions of rule 96 of the Procedure Rules and that is why the Hon'ble Speaker has refused consent.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Which provision?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rule 96.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, is it not a matter of.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please. I will not allow any discussion.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Why are you not prepared to entertain a discussion?. Under section 96 consent has been refused by the Speaker and not by yourself. And so when this has been mentioned, it is my privilege as a member of this House to enter into a discussion and I think you will bear with me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that on such an important matter it is my privilege and duty and right to enter into a discussion with you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, Mr. Basu, I do not agree with you. Kindly take your seat.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Before I take my seat, Mr. Deputy Speaker,.....

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: On a point of order, Sir. Is my learned friend in order to go on speaking while Mr. Deputy Speaker has asked him to sit down?

Mr. JYOTI BASU: The honourable member ought to know that I sat down and I have carried out the order of the Deputy Speaker. Now, as I was saying, I find that I have complied with all the provisions laid down in section 96. That is, it is a definite matter of urgent public importance, as all of us—those who do not have cars can understand. So I do not know how I am told that consent has been refused under this section 96. I would therefore like to have a little more enlightenment on this matter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot throw more light than what I have already thrown.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: May I in this connection make one submission, Sir? It seems that it is neither fair on the Deputy Speaker nor on the Speaker who is unwell——

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Nor on the House.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Yes, as my honourable friend the Leader of the House says, nor on the House that urgent motions like this should be sent for disposal to the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker will have to bear the brunt of answering the criticisms on the propriety or otherwise of this discussion. If the Deputy Speaker is presiding, could not these motions be sent for the giving of consent or refusal of consent by the Deputy Speaker, or at least should not the Deputy Speaker be consulted by the Speaker regarding these matters? We have seen on the last day as also today that there are discussions. Naturally there are discussions because these are matters of urgent public importance. I quite appreciate that the Deputy Speaker is not here to revise the decision given by the Speaker. Since this matter is cropping up again and again, could not this be done in future that such motions should either be disposed of by the person who is going to preside over the meeting on that particular day or at least the Deputy Speaker should be consulted before the Speaker gives his decision?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, may I point out that on the question of refusal of consent there is no possibility of discussion; there could not have been any discussion whatsoever on the point.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Gupta, it seems that really on rare occasions the Speaker, as I have been able to find out from the proceedings, gave reasons for the refusal of consent. Now, under the rules and conventions the Hon'ble Speaker is not bound to give reasons for his refusal. But if the Hon'ble Speaker thinks that it is necessary to give reasons for his decision, I do not think there is any harm. I do not think there is any convention that any one occupying the Chair is bound to state the reasons for refusal of consent. But according to the rules as they stand, there is nothing irregular.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: In refusing consent the reason is not given, but it has always happened that in the House members who could not get consent raised the question and the reasons were given. That has been the practice. But the Deputy Speaker is not in a position to give reasons which actuated the Speaker.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to rule 96, I submit that there has been no valid refusal of consent at all to this adjournment motion. Rule 96 lays down that "a motion for an adjournment of the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance may be made with the consent of the Speaker."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar, is it open to an honourable member of the House to say whether the order is valid or invalid?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, that is my point of order, and it is for you to decide. It may be made with the consent of the Speaker. With reference to this I submit that here the Speaker refers to the present incumbent of the Chair, the Speaker of the day. Unless, Sir, you are personally in a position to say that I have refused consent we shall not take it that consent has really been refused. The Speaker of the day is alone competent to say whether he has given his consent or refused to give his consent. If that was not so, you, Sir, could not have suspended the rules of procedure regarding certain days for certain notices,—to take an analogy. Everywhere wherever the powers of the Speaker are referred to, that refers to the power of the person who is acting as the Speaker of the day. As such, my point of order definitely and categorically is that unless you are in a position to tell the House that you have refused consent to this motion, there has been no refusal of consent, and, Sir, in the absence of your refusal of consent this motion should be entitled to be considered by you. If, on the contrary, you are in a position to say that "I as the Speaker of the day have refused to give consent", then of course you are not bound to give any reasons as the contention of the Hon'ble the Leader of the House goes, and we will bow to your decision. But if you are not able to say that you have refused consent, I suggest that rule 96 refers to the powers which are now vested in yourself and under the rule my point of order is that there has been no refusal of consent heretofore. Therefore this motion deserves your most careful consideration.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, even at the risk of repetition I hope you will kindly permit me to make a few observations on this matter. We are sorry to hear that the Speaker is ill and we wish that he will soon be restored to health. Ordinarily we would not have referred to this matter knowing that the Speaker is ill, but it concerns the privilege of every member of this House. So far as the adjournment motion is concerned, I know, Sir, the Speaker need not give any reason, but the point is he should be available here to hear our submission. There is another matter. You may remember that when my friend Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha protested against the shortness of the time given to us to give notice of amendments to the Bills we were informed that the period of notice was shortened by the Speaker. That, Sir, we consider a gross interference with our privilege. We know that the Speaker has the right to do it. But if the Speaker had been well and present in the House we could have raised the matter in the House or we could have seen him in his chamber, but we were unable to do so as the Speaker was not attending the Assembly. Sir, in support of what my friend Mr. Gupta has stated I may say that it would be well and I hope, you will kindly convey this feeling at least of this side of the House to the Speaker, I say that it would be better as long as the Speaker is ill, to leave all these decisions to you. Then we could try to

persuade you to give your decision in our favour. Otherwise I am sorry to have to say it—but I want to have it on record that we most emphatically protest against this procedure of having to submit to the decision of an absentee Speaker.

Mr. MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: On a point of order, Sir. If the contention of Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar is accepted, this would place us in an anomalous position. Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar says that the consent may be refused by the Speaker and he wants to say that in the absence of the Speaker the Deputy Speaker may revise that. That is absurd. (CRIES OF: "No, no, that is not our point" from the opposition benches.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, that is not the point.

Mr. MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Sir, my point is that when the consent has been refused by the Speaker and in his absence when the Deputy Speaker presides he steps into the shoes of the Speaker and does all the functions of the Speaker. So the subtle point that has been raised by our friend Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar does not stand.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: May I suggest, Sir, that the point raised by Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar is not adequate. I ask that you adopt the ruling of the Speaker and refuse consent.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, as regards the suggestion made by the Leader of the House, I would like to point out the danger that would arise out of the point raised by him. If you read rule 16 you will find that it lays down that "the Speaker shall preserve order and have all powers necessary for the purpose of enforcing his decisions on all points of order." If we are to take literally what the Hon'ble the Leader of the House suggests, then you are in no power to enforce any order. Therefore I suggest that the contention of the Hon'ble Leader of the House is utterly hollow and untenable and therefore, Sir, my submission deserves your most careful consideration and looking at my submission vis-a-vis the provisions contained in rule 16 you will be pleased to hold that my submission cannot be dismissed so lightly.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA : মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমি বলতে চাই যে, আমাদের যে কথা নিয়ে আলোচনা চলছে সেটা হচ্ছে Part 7 of the motion for adjournment for the purpose of debate. দেখা যায় যে, এই Speaker কথার ব্যবহার বিভিন্ন স্থানে হয়েছে, তাহ'লে এখানে কি অর্থ ধরতে হবে? বাস্তবিক যদি rule 99এর অনুযায়ী কেবল Speakerকে বোঝা যায়, তাহ'লে একটা anomalous position হয়। এখানে আমার submission হচ্ছে যে Part 7 (*a*) Speaker শব্দ যদিও বহুবার ব্যবহার হয়ে থাকে, Speaker এক জনকেই বোঝাবে, বিভিন্ন ব্যক্তিকে বোঝাতে পারে না।

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Basu, you had your say.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: I had so much to say——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not necessary for me to allow any further discussion.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: You have not heard me.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have heard you for the longest period.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: In view of the discussion that has taken place just now on my adjournment motion I think it is my privilege to say a few words.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you kindly take your seat? You had your say for quite a long time.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: But Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you are going to treat us in this fashion—this is after all not a Fascist House as yet, so in that respect there is some sort of democracy still left in this House——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Basu, I would request you to use guarded language.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Is that unparliamentary?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When you say "a Fascist House", it is not a very happy language.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: I said it was not a Fascist House. As I was saying with regard to this matter, you this time unlike last time have given us a certain reason why my adjournment motion has been refused consent. Last time—perhaps the Leader of the House does not know—you told me with regard to the firing on the peasants of Susang adjournment motion that you did not know anything about it why consent was refused. But fortunately this time you have given me reasons as to why consent has been refused and on that I wanted further enlightenment from you, but I do not know why very summarily you have told me that you are not prepared to throw further light on this matter. I would like to ask you whether this is your refusal or this is the refusal of the Speaker and like last time you are not at all aware of the reasons because I find I am still completely in the dark, I find I have complied with all the provisions which are required to bring an adjournment motion and I find that I have been refused consent.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have you finished, Mr. Basu?

Mr. JYOTI BASU: I have not finished. How are we to proceed with regard to the business of this House unless you, Sir, sitting on that chair throw some light with regard to the different problems and matters that arise from time to time. I think there must be misconception in your mind with regard to the rules and therefore, Sir, you have refused consent or you agreed with the Speaker who has refused consent. Therefore I would like you, Sir, to reconsider the matter and to leave the matter till tomorrow or some time after when we can have a discussion with you in regard to this matter because this is an important matter which we have not discussed in this House. So, I would like to know from you, is this your refusal or refusal of the Speaker or whether you are prepared to leave this matter over till we can have some discussion, may be in your chamber or somewhere else.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So far as Mr. Basu's submissions are concerned, it is exactly for this reason that I do not like to review the situation. Once you give reasons for a decision you are bound to give reasons about every decision of the Speaker. That makes the work very difficult. The main point that emerges out of the discussion is whether it should have been left to me or the matter of refusal of consent should have been dealt with by the Hon'ble Speaker. So far as I can see there has been no difficulty because of refusal of consent by the Hon'ble Speaker. Honourable members who have made submissions have not referred to rule 17 of the Assembly Procedure Rules.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Yes, Sir, I referred to rules 16 and 17.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rule 17 clearly says that in the absence of the Speaker, either the Deputy Speaker or some one else will be in charge to preside and exercise functions of the Speaker. Be that as it may, I do

not consider it an impossible position that a part of the work is to be done by the Speaker and a part by the Deputy Speaker. Supposing the Speaker was fit. If he had presided over the House for one hour or a part of the proceedings it was open to him to ask me to occupy the chair. So I do not find any irregularity for the Hon'ble Speaker dealing with the matter in question. The real grievance seems to me is that the reasons have not been assigned. Of course it is not for me to assign all the reasons that weigh with the Speaker but there are some reasons which I find from the notes, and the main reason—without making a precedent for giving reasons —I find from the Hon'ble Speaker's note, is delay. The strike started on the 21st January, the House met for the first time on the 3rd February. It was open to the honourable member to give notice immediately on the sitting of the House.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: It is a continuing occurrence.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But it was continuing for a sufficiently long period from the 21st of January. So during this long period the honourable member did not choose to send notice of the adjournment motion. That is the main ground on which consent has been refused. The question of my adopting the reasons of the Speaker as the honourable Leader of the House suggested does not arise because I do not hold that the Speaker is incompetent to refuse consent.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you read the adjournment motion carefully——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you kindly sit down?

Mr. JYOTI BASU: The reason is not strike, it is the failure of the Government to settle the strike even on the 21st day.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you kindly sit down? I have finished with this point.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: I have very carefully framed this adjournment motion. I think you will bear with me——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you kindly sit down?

Mr. JYOTI BASU: I will take only one minute.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Will you kindly take your seat? I do not want to give any more time. You have taken sufficient time over the discussion of this point. I do not allow you to submit any further.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: You have been misinformed. You have not read my adjournment motion. I do not talk about the strike, I say the failure of the Government to settle the strike even on the 21st day.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you kindly take your seat? You are presuming too much when you say that I have not read your adjournment motion.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: From your remarks I am constrained to say so.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you kindly take your seat?

Resolutions expressing disapproval of the Ordinances promulgated by the Provincial Governor under provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I draw your attention to one other matter? You will remember that while the other day the Ordinances were laid before the House I moved resolutions

expressing disapproval of the Ordinances. Now, under the Act some time must be allowed for the discussion of these resolutions. I beg, Sir, of you to fix certain time to discuss some of those resolutions expressing disapproval of the Ordinances.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJI: Yes, Sir, we want that some time should be given for discussion of the resolutions. There are 13 resolutions and we require 13 days to discuss those resolutions.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: My view is that the resolutions of which Mr. Sinha has given notice fall in the category of Government business. As such it is the duty of the Government to allot a time for discussion of these resolutions. So far as my personal opinion is concerned, Government ought to fix the date as early as they can for taking up those resolutions. I would request the honourable Leader of the House to tell the House if he can fix an early date for discussion of the resolutions.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I shall certainly consider this request and will allot such days. But these Ordinances, most of them at least, will come up before the House in the form of Bills that will be introduced by Government and when they come up before the House for consideration in that form, the House will have an opportunity of discussing not only the general merits of the Ordinances but also the various clauses and intricacies of the Ordinances. So, if the House then passes the Ordinances with such amendments as it may choose to make, there will not be any necessity—rather the question of disapproval of the House will not arise and would be redundant. If the House passes the Bill itself and it is turned into an Act, any question of disapproval now may be redundant. I do not say "will be redundant" but it may be redundant. I am not here to give a ruling on this point. But the House should certainly have an opportunity of discussing these Ordinances. In any event, I shall consider this matter and see whether I cannot find some days on which these matters can be discussed by the House. I hope that instead of taking 13 days, honourable members of the Opposition will take 13 minutes to dispose of these 13 ordinances.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I am afraid the honourable Leader of the House has misled the House on this occasion. We are not in the habit of speaking redundant things. The words are in the Government of India Act, and it is not for the Chief Minister, the honourable Leader of the House and I submit, even for the Speaker for the matter of that, to go beyond the four corners set down by the Government of India Act. Section 88(2)(*a*) specifically lays down "an Ordinance promulgated under this section shall have the same force and effect as an Act of the Provincial Legislature assented to by the Governor, but every such Ordinance shall be laid before the Provincial Legislature and shall cease to operate at the expiration of six weeks from the reassembly of the Legislature, or if a resolution disapproving it is passed by the Legislative Assembly and agreed to by the Legislative Council, if any, upon the passing of the resolution or, as the case may be, on the resolution being agreed to by the Council."

I submit, Sir, that the purpose of this sub-section is not a discussion of the event after it has taken place but of the merits of the case itself—whether the situation warranted the passing of an ordinance. It may be that we may agree to a Bill of the same nature, but that does not by itself validate what has been done by Government in the past. Suppose, Sir, an emergency arises and Government passes an ordinance and misuses power that has been given to them by the Act, the Legislature has a right to criticise that, and not allow the ordinance to continue and terminate the ordinance, as has been provided in this sub-section, even earlier. That is the express right given to this House. It is not merely a question of discussion. We may agree that a situation has now arisen that necessitates a Bill of this nature, but we might not agree to the fact that the Ordinance

was necessary at the time at which it was promulgated. That is the provision and if the Hon'ble Chief Minister now says that a Bill will come up and we shall then have an opportunity of discussing these identical measures, it does not necessarily mean the time at which the Ordinances were promulgated, the way in which the Ordinances were promulgated, the way in which the Ordinances were applied and the things that were done under the ordinances will be approved by the Legislature without having an opportunity to discuss them under section 88(*2*)(*a*). That is the express right conferred on this House, and neither the honourable Leader of the House nor the Speaker nor the Deputy Speaker for that matter can curtail the right of this House to express its specific disapproval of the ordinances that Government must place before this House under this provision.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I did not say that it would be redundant. I said it might be redundant. I made this clear, but, I think, I am entitled to say that it will be a waste of the time of the House if while we are consenting to the ordinances in the form of Bills to be turned into Acts we have, at the same time, further discussion on the merits and demerits of the Bill for the purpose of considering whether when it was passed it was in order or not, whether it should have been passed or not. I also believe that there will be quite a number of precedents that will be found in the legislative proceedings when Ordinances that have been objected to have not been allowed to lapse after delay of six weeks though they have been brought to this House for discussion.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: May I make one submission, Sir? If that is your ruling, it does no credit to Government to say that they previously fixed no dates for the discussion of resolutions expressing disapproval of Ordinances. I also wonder, Sir, if such a thing has really taken place. I think I gave a precedent to you on the last occasion. That precedent refers to incidents that took place on the 28th November, 1939; the Ordinances were placed before the House, and discussion of those three Ordinances took place on the 8th December and resolutions were expressly moved and discussed by this House. That is the precedent. If it is a question of precedent I would beg through you, Sir, of the Hon'ble Chief Minister to cite one precedent in favour of his arguments against the positive precedent that I have cited. My contention is that there is no precedent in his favour and it is neither the intention of the rules nor the intention of the Government of India Act that these resolutions should not be discussed. It is, Sir, quite contrary. If that had not been the fact, it would have been specifically mentioned in the Government of India Act, and if Government takes the opportunity as the Hon'ble Chief Minister has said that it has done in the past, it is no credit to Government and it is a positive encroachment on the rights of this House.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of India Act lays down that an Ordinance shall cease to operate at the expiration of six weeks from the re-assembly of the Legislature, but if there is a resolution expressing disapproval and if the resolution is passed, then it will cease to operate earlier. For these reasons, Sir, Government should fix a short date for the discussion of the resolution expressing disapproval of the Ordinance; otherwise it will continue. So, it is the intention of the Government of India Act if a resolution be put forward Government should fix an early date and give an opportunity to this House whether the House expresses its disapproval or approval. If there is approval it will cease to operate at the expiration of six weeks. If there is disapproval, it will cease to operate immediately on the passing of the resolution. So Government should immediately fix a date, a short date, and give an opportunity to this House to express its approval or disapproval of the Ordinance.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: I think, Sir, the Leader of the House, after being shown section 88, has now understood that it was incumbent upon him to

fix a date for discussion or to introduce a Bill before the expiration of six weeks from the re-assembly of the Assembly. I feel that from what has fallen from the Leader of the House, the Ordinances have been discredited by his statement that he is thinking that a Bill must be brought in when it may be redundant.

If six weeks are allowed to expire before a Bill or legislative measure is completed it shows that Government themselves feel that the Ordinances are not required and possibly were not required.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: You have misunderstood me, Mr. Gupta.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Apart from the question of Government now coming up with Bills, it is essential to point out that Government are not entitled to bypass the provisions of section 88(*2*)(*a*). Sir, unlike what takes place in the British Parliament, here under our constitution extraordinary powers of legislation have been given to the Governor, but the Governor is expected to use those powers very sparingly and would not ordinarily use those powers by means of Ordinances, and the only safeguard given to this House as the Legislature of the Province is that this House is entitled to examine such Ordinances which the Governor may have thought fit to promulgate. And with a view to enable this House to consider and criticize and approve or disapprove of such Ordinances, this scope of discussion is secured and given us under section 88(*2*)(*a*). I therefore suggest that it is the duty of the honourable the Leader of the House to ascertain whether the House intends, or any section of the House intends, to discuss such Ordinances, and, if so, then it is his duty to fix an early date, and not to deprive the House or any section of it the opportunity of discussing the Ordinances. If the Leader of the House tries to circumvent the provisions of this Act which is a constitutional right of this House, if he withdraws his co-operation, then it is a flagrant breach of the constitutional provision under which this House exists. I submit there is no other alternative left to the honourable the Leader of the House but to fix an early date for the discussion of it. One of these Ordinances covers very diverse grounds and grounds of a vital nature relating to the welfare of the people of this Province. We do not want Governor's wantonly to promulgate Ordinances. We insist on having discussions on each one of the Ordinances about which already notices have been tabled by an honourable member of this side of the House. It is not only a privilege of the Legislature but more so it is a privilege of the Opposition. I therefore ask through you, Sir, whether the honourable the Leader of the House will state here and now as to when he wishes to fix a date and give us an opportunity that we are entitled to get under the constitution and, as suggested by you, it is for the Government to decide. We should like to know here and now when and for what period he proposes that the Ordinances should be discussed.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I have already said I have noted the wishes of the honourable members opposite, and I shall try my level best to fix suitable dates consistent of the requirements of Government business. There is no point in trying to delay matters. Government have got an infinite patience and, if necessary, Government can sit the whole year round in this House in order to finish its business.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I would point out that it is not merely Government business as such for after the laying of the Ordinances in the House it becomes the business of the House by a resolution. It does not depend on the sweet will of the Government to fix a date or not. Therefore it is not enough to provide time within the limit of time that is at the disposal of Government for Government business.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is a point in deciding which I am unable to take help of any of the sections of the rules of procedure.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: May I refer you, Sir, to the relevant rules. Under rule 116 of the Assembly Procedure Rules the Speaker may, by orders not inconsistent with these rules, provide for matters for which no provision is made and may give such directions as may be necessary for giving effect to these rules and such orders.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have understood your point. I agree with Mr. Sinha and I hold that these two matters are quite distinct. Resolutions disapproving of the Ordinances and the Bills are certainly two distinct things, and in my opinion Government should allot time before the expiry of six weeks from the date of the re-assembly of this House. That is the matter which I place before the House and I request the honourable the Leader of the House to fix up a date as early as possible.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: With your leave, Sir, I beg to lay an Ordinance on the table, namely, the Bengal Ordinance No. 3 of 1947—The Bengal Civil Pioneer Force Ordinance, 1947.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I beg to move a resolution disapproving the resolution.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it not necessary to give notice?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, Sir, it is not. I am told that it is not necessary that any notice should be given under the rules for the laying of an Ordinance on the table.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have they been circulated?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: They will be circulated at once.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I rise on a point of order, Sir. I think the contention made by the honourable the Leader of the House is not quite correct. An Ordinance before it is laid on the table must be circulated to all the members of the House. I have not received any copy.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I believe it has been circulated just at the time of laying it on the table.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I should like to know from the honourable members whether all sections of the House have got copies of these Ordinances.....(CRIES OF "Yes, Yes" from the Government benches and of "No, No" from the Opposition benches).

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: We have on record here that copies of this particular Ordinance were sent to the Assembly Department on the 6th and I believe your office is very well run.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I agree with the observation of the honourable the Leader of the House that my office is very well run, but I am told that no copies of the Ordinance have been received by our office.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: May I give notice here that tomorrow I shall proceed to lay this Ordinance on the table. Since honourable members desire that it should be on the order paper, may I, Sir, state here and now that tomorrow I shall lay the Bengal Civil Pioneer Force Ordinance, 1947, on the table. I understand once more that this Ordinance was sent to the Assembly Department. Perhaps your Department would be kind enough to lay all the papers on the table before the honourable members.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am told by the Secretary of my office that the office did receive copies, but the office was not intimated the date on which Government would like this Ordinance to be laid on the table. There is no harm if the matter is placed tomorrow on the order paper.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJI: May we know when we are going to have discussion on the resolutions?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have got to adjourn the House again for prayers.

(The House was then adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

GOVERNMENT BILL.

The Bengal Ordinances Temporary Enactment Bill, 1947.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I beg to introduce the Bengal Ordinances Temporary Enactment Bill, 1947.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I beg to oppose the introduction of the Bengal Ordinances Temporary Enactment Bill.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would request Mr. Sinha to refer to rule 47 of the Procedure Rules. If the Bill had been published in the Gazette, and in this case I am informed that the Bill had already been published, the question of opposition to the introduction of the Bill does not arise. It is not before the House in the form of a motion. It is not for leave to introduce the Bill. It is merely introducing the Bill. So, the question of opposition does not arise.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I then rise on a point of order. I want to press this point of order, and I am going to raise very fundamental issues. I would not have raised this point of order had I not thought that you would go into these fundamental issues and consider the entire question *de novo* and give your considered ruling on those points. My specific point of order is that there is nowhere in the rules any provision debarring opposition to the very introduction even if it is done under rule 47. That is my point of order.

I beg to read out to you rules 47 and 49. Rule 47 says: "The Governor may order the publication of any Bill (together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons accompanying it) in the Gazette, although no motion has been made for leave to introduce the Bill. In that case, it shall not be necessary....."

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Sir, may we know on what point he is speaking, whether he is speaking on his opposition to the Bill or on some other matter?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him finish.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: My point of order is that opposition can be permitted even at the introduction stage. As the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker was pleased to observe, under rule 47 it seems that there can be no opposition to a bill at the introduction stage. I am pressing a point of order contending that it is quite permissible under the rules to oppose even introduction of the Bill. That is my point of order.

Rule 47 says: The Governor may order the publication of any Bill (together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons accompanying it) in the Gazette, although no motion has been made for leave to introduce the Bill.

Rule 49 says: "If a motion for leave to introduce a Bill is opposed, the Speaker after permitting, if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the member who moves and from the member who opposes the motion, may, without further debate, put the question thereon."

My submission is that if a Bill is introduced under rule 49, the right of the Opposition to oppose the very introduction has been specifically given under rule 49. It has been said that "after a brief explanatory statement from the member who moves and from the member who opposes the motion"

—that gives specific right to oppose the very introduction of the Bill. Now, the question is whether that right exists in the case of rule 47 or not. That is the only question—whether that right of the Opposition exists in the case of rule 47 or not.

I would submit to you a two-fold case. My first submission is that there exists the right of the Opposition even under rule 47, and my second submission is that the present Bill that has been just introduced has not been introduced under rule 47, but under rule 49 in the way of a motion and, as such, it has become a property of the House to be discussed, debated upon and thrown out, if necessary.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sinha, please try to be short.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Yes, I am trying to be short. What is the specific purpose of this rule 47? The specific purpose of rule 47 is to secure the first reading of the Bill. What is meant by the first reading of the Bill? If you look to the procedure in the House of Commons, you will find that the object of the first reading is to secure the printing of the Bill. It has been stated specifically in May's Parliamentary Practice. The procedure there is that Bills can be introduced under three orders, viz., Standing Order No. 10, Standing Order No. 32(*1*) and Standing Order No. 32(*2*)—one is in the case of a Bill to be introduced without preliminary proceedings and without a motion and another is in the case of a Bill that is to be introduced without a preliminary proceeding and without a motion and the third is in the case of a Bill that is to be introduced without preliminary proceedings but with a motion. These are the three orders of three categories of Bills.

Now, Sir, except in the case of those Bills which had some preliminary proceedings in the House and had been brought to the House as a result of some specific order or as a result of the deliberations of some committee of the House, excepting that case, the right of opposition at the introduction stage—and I submit, not only the right of opposition but also the right of a lengthy debate at that stage—both these rights exist. It has been amply demonstrated in the case of the Protection of Life and Property Bill that was introduced with a motion after five continuous sittings had taken place and after the Speaker was physically exhausted and had to go home for sleep and dinner. That was the position.

Now, Sir, my submission is that there is no provision in our rules to bring in a Bill with preliminary proceedings. There can be no Bill founded on an order of this House or a resolution of this House. Even if a Bill is founded on such an order or resolution, the rules, as at present stand, do not take cognisance of such preliminary proceedings. In that case it is quite logical in the House of Commons to dispense with the provision for objection at the stage of introduction because the preliminary discussions were held at the committee stage or when the resolution was put in the House. There being no provision like that in this House, I submit that, just as in the case of Standing Order No. 10 in the House of Commons and Standing Order No. 32(*2*) in the House of Commons, the right to oppose exists, similarly, Sir, this rule 47 here is merely a permissive rule, not a mandatory rule and does not take away the right of the Opposition to oppose the introduction of the Bill. I would like, Sir, to elucidate this point more. The point is what is the object of the first reading. The fundamental object of the first reading is to secure printing of the Bill. If I may quote May's Parliamentary Practice it is stated there "A member may explain the object of the Bill, and give reasons for its introduction; but normally this is not the proper time—mark the word normally—for any lengthened debate upon its merits If the motion be opposed and if there is a likelihood of its being negatived and no further occasion arises for its discussion, or if there are grounds of urgency, every opportunity may be taken for a

full exposition of the character and objects of the Bill. Lengthened debates of this nature took place on the Protection of Life and Property (Ireland) Bill and continued over five sittings, 24th January to 2nd February. The debate on Government of Ireland Bill, 1886, occupied four sittings, and that of Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Bill, 1887, occupied five sittings.

Then, Sir, I may further submit that even in the first reading there are several distinctive sub-stages which have to be gone through to come to an end of the first reading. If there is no necessity for having it published again that stage is dispensed with. These are the sub-stages:—First, the Bill has to be presented after leave has been given to the Bill. Then the Speaker calls upon the member to present the Bill and then the Bill is received. And then the Secretary puts it in this question form: "That the Bill be now read the first time". That is the language of Parliament. That being so, if it is agreed to by the House, then it comes to the Public Bill office to be drafted and printed. We know, Sir, that in the case of House of Commons a complete Bill is never presented on the first occasion. It is presented merely as a dummy and the object of the first reading is merely to secure printing of the Bill. That is the object of the first reading. What does this rule provide or even what do the Standing Orders of the House of Commons provide? The Standing Orders merely dispense with the necessity for going through those distinctive sub-stages. Similarly, Sir, while moving this motion to introduce the Bill the Hon'ble Minister is calling upon the House to approve of this procedure so that all these distinctive sub-stages might not be gone through. It is merely a permissive provision. I am giving an analogy. In the case of starred questions the Honourable Minister has to get up and read out the answer, but for the convenience of the House it has been decided that in the case of unstarred questions, the Hon'ble Minister need not get up and read out the answers. But that does not, I submit, in any way, detract from the right of the Opposition to ask supplementary questions. Here also the position is exactly the same. The very fact that the preliminaries are being dispensed with does not in any way detract from the right of the Opposition to oppose the very introduction of the Bill. That is the position, Sir. I beg to submit that the very fact that the Bill has been published does not mean that the Opposition has no right to oppose the introduction of the Bill. The very fact that it has been laid before the House by way of a motion or the very fact that it has gone to the first reading means that it is a demand on the House for its approval to dispense with the preliminaries that must be gone through in the case of a Bill with a formal motion. This is my first point.

My second point is that the Bill that has been introduced has not been introduced under rule 47 but under rule 49. I would refer you, Sir, to one precedent. I refer you to the proceedings of this House that took place on the 24th April, 1944. On that occasion, Sir, the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan got up and said: "I beg leave of the House to introduce the Secondary Education Bill". On that, Sir, a point of order was raised by Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal when he said that when a Minister gets up and says "I beg leave of the House to introduce a Bill", as soon as a Minister gets up and says so, it at once becomes a motion. Had it been a Bill moved under rule 47, then the correct procedure would have been the procedure that was adopted at that time. The correct procedure would have been not for the Minister to get up and say "I beg leave to do such and such thing" but for the Secretary to get up and say that such and such Bill had been introduced as is done in the case of communications from the Upper House. If you will go through the proceedings, Sir, you will find that the Speaker said: "As to the introduction, I have made it clear that so far as leave to introduce is concerned, it is not necessary in the case of Bills already published in the Gazette by Government. The question then arises as to whether that in itself is introduction." These are the words of the Speaker, Sir. May I read out a few more sentences? "It has been stated by

Dr. Sanyal himself whether it is a mere question of acquainting the members with the Bill just by placing it before the House as in the case of Ordinance or other matters".

Mr. MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: On a point of information, Sir. I want to know whether there has been any time-limit.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: It is a very important point.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sinha, you are making a very long speech. It is not necessary. You have spoken on your point of order quite sufficiently.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I have many more points. May I point out one thing?

Mr. MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Are you making a speech?

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Yes, on a point of order.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: He is only submitting his point of order.

Mr. MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: He is not entitled to make a speech on the point of order.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It is practically his maiden speech.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I am finishing within a few minutes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have understood your point of order. Your point is that you have a right to oppose the introduction of a Bill.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I am referring to a decision from the Chair of the Central Assembly when on the introduction of the Currency Bill which had already been published in the Gazette one honourable member wanted to oppose the introduction. The President pointed out —I am quoting it, Sir—"the honourable member cannot oppose the introduction. There is no motion before the House. Under rule 80 the Governor-General has got the power to order the publication of any Bill and, in that event, it is not necessary to move for leave to introduce a Bill." That procedure has been adopted in this case, and the Hon'ble Chief Minister has now merely introduced the Bill, as the leave stage has been dispensed with. Honourable members can oppose any motion for leave to introduce a Bill, but in this case there is no such motion before the House. Here in this particular instance the Hon'ble the Chief Minister merely introduces the Bill.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I have understood your point. Before I give my ruling on this point I would request Mr. Sinha to look into the Order Paper first. The Order Paper clearly says that the Chief Minister "the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy to proceed to introduce the Bengal Ordinances Temporary Enactment Bill, 1947." I hold there is distinction between a motion for leave to introduce a Bill and introducing a Bill. I have referred to the Order Paper and I think all will be well advised to look into the Order Paper. So there is no motion before the House for leave to introduce any Bill. The matter would have been absolutely different if there had been a motion for leave to introduce a Bill before the House. At that time it would have been open to the Opposition to move that motion. But here there is no such motion.

As regards the point as to whether introduction is under rule 47 or rule 49, considering the language put in the Order Paper I hold that it is under rule 47 and not under rule 49.

As regards the Standing Order referred to in the House of Commons; here we have got a set of rules for conducting the business of our House. In the presence of specific rules for conducting the business of the House I do not think it is necessary for me to rely on the Standing Order of the House of Commons where the rules may be different on many points. As such the question of opposing the introduction does not arise. Besides I would also request my honourable friend Mr. Sinha to refer to the self-same ruling, namely, the ruling of 24th April, 1944. The observations made by Mr. Nausher Ali also support the view I have taken up. Mr. Nausher Ali also said on page 288 of the proceedings of this House that "it is however absolutely clear in the case of Bills already published in the Gazette that no question of leave of this House arises". That part is absolutely clear. Now whether there should be any formality with regard to the introduction of the Bill, the rules are absolutely silent. Since there is no motion before the House for introducing the Bill, the question of opposing it does not arise. As such I hold that the Opposition or, for the matter of that, any member of this House has no right to oppose the motion to introduce the Bill in this House.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I rise on a point of order, Sir. My point of order is that the way in which this Bill has been drafted linking together ten Ordinances into one Bill, is not permissible, and I will ask you to consider this aspect of the question before you call upon the Hon'ble the Chief Minister to proceed further.

Now, Sir, under section 88 of the Government of India Act the Ordinance is promulgated by the Governor under exceptional circumstances. The Ordinance has the force and effect of an Act of the Provincial Legislature—each Ordinance and not a number of Ordinances taken together, and each has the force and effect of a separate Bill.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: On a point of order, Sir. I am terribly sorry that I am interrupting Dr. Mookerjee. I wish to point out that this point of order may well be raised when I move that the Bill be taken into consideration and not now when there is nothing before the House to comment upon.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I thought, Sir, that you had allowed the Hon'ble Minister to introduce the Bill.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you want to raise the point of order now, or afterwards, as suggested by the Leader of the House? I think it is a good suggestion by the Leader of the House.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: As you like, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can well do that later on.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: All right.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: On a point of order, Sir. I submit this House has no power to legislate on this subject. This Bill deals with the constitution of Civic Guards.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think you can raise that point after the motion for introduction is moved. There is nothing now before the House.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Before the Bill is introduced, Sir, I have a point of order.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I beg leave to move that the Bengal Ordinance Temporary Enactment Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, before the Bill is introduced, I have a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has already moved the introduction and now it is not your turn but Dr. Mookerjee's.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: I do not know whether the Speaker can act in this manner arbitrarily. I stood up to raise a point of order before the motion was moved.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you kindly sit down when I am on my legs, Mr. Basu? You have, Mr. Basu, made a very serious observation about the Chair. I would request you to consider whether you should have made an observation of this nature.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Did you hear what I said?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I heard correctly as all other members of the House did. I think, Mr. Basu, it behoves you to be sorry for your conduct.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: I am sorry, Sir.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, my point of order is that the form in which this Bill has been drawn up is *ultra vires*, and the House cannot consider the Bill as drafted. I was referring to you section 88 of the Government of India Act, sub-section (2) which says that the Governor under exceptional circumstances can promulgate an Ordinance. Each Ordinance deals with a specific matter. Indeed ten Ordinances were promulgated by the Governor since we last met in the Assembly which we are considering now. Each Ordinance has the force and effect of an Act of the Provincial Legislature, and certain conditions have to be fulfilled in this connection. The first of them is that each Ordinance shall be laid before the Provincial Legislature. Up till now none of these Ordinances has been laid before the Legislature.

Mr. MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: All of them have been laid on the table.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: All of them?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Yes, they were laid on the 3rd and I have received notices of resolutions.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I stand corrected. I am coming to the next stage. These Ordinances will expire at the end of six weeks from the commencement of the Session of the Assembly unless a resolution is passed to the contrary earlier. Already notices have been given and a few minutes ago you yourself directed that it was desirable that Government should allot a day for the consideration of these resolutions. Until and unless those resolutions are considered it is not incumbent upon the Government to circumvent the provisions of the Act and bring up a separate Bill for the purpose of continuing those Ordinances. That is my first point that you will not allow any consideration of the Ordinances until the resolutions of which notice has been given are considered by the House on a date to be allotted by you on the advice of the Government.

But there is another question, Sir, which is even of greater importance, and that is that if the Ordinances are to continue as Acts of the Legislature, then each Ordinance is to be incorporated in the form of a Bill. I think it is a procedure unprecedented in the course of any Legislature in this country where an attempt is made to enact 10 different kinds of legislative measures and put them into one Bill by merely mentioning them as Ordinances which were originally passed; in other words, this is an attempt to extend the life of the Ordinance which is limited to a period of six weeks after the opening of the Legislature under section 88, clause 2, of the Government of India Act. And this, Sir, the Government has no right to do. If you read the Statement of Objects and Reasons you will find that the Hon'ble Chief Minister himself realises his difficulty. He knows that this gives him no

permanent solution at all. He therefore indicates in his Statement of Objects and Reasons that he will have to regularise it by bringing forward a separate Bill for each of the Ordinances. In fact, that is the only thing which he can do, but he pleads lack of time and he pleads many other things and until the Bills can be brought before the Legislature in accordance with the provisions of the law and the rules he proposes to bring forward this unprecedented measure. He says that this will be given first a lease of six months' life and and again at the discretion of the Provincial Government a further lease of six months' life; in other words, the Ordinance which the Governor alone can pass in the absence of the Legislature which is limited to a short period of six weeks after the commencement of the first session of the Legislature following the promulgation of such Ordinance, is proposed to be extended by six months in the first instance and another six months in next instance.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly try to be short. I understand your point.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: If you understand it and if you agree with me, I have nothing further to add.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: I rise on a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you rising on a fresh point of order? I have not disposed of the point of order raised by Dr. Mookerjee.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: My point raises whether this Bill can be proceeded with.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not want to hear you on this point. If Mr. Roy wants to say anything I will hear him.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: No, I would like to hear the Leader of the House.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: There is a fresh point on the same thing.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me dispose of this point, then I will hear your point.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: I have never taken much of your time. I shall not take more than three minutes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not want to hear you on this point. Dr. Mookerjee has been sufficiently clear.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: I want to raise this point merely as an additional point bearing on this point of order. I say that the Statement of Objects and Reasons says that Bills for the latter purpose will be separately introduced. There arises a difficulty because under the rules Bills of the same type cannot be introduced in the same session. If I may quote to you from May's Parliamentary Procedure, it says that no Bill of the same substance can be brought in the same session and these Ordinances and the Bills that would be brought hereafter will be of the same type. If there was no reference to Bills for the latter purpose being brought in and if these Bills were not circulated——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ghose, I have understood your point.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: We want to know from the Leader of the House whether his action is not a circumvention of section 88(*2*).

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: How can it be a circumvention when I am placing the provisions of the Ordinances before this House for its concurrence. If I were to do this without placing it before this House it would be circumvention but the House is at liberty to express its views.

Sir, this is not an unprecedented measure. There are precedents to it. We are not enacting all the Ordinances either also if I may reply to that part of the argument. All these are not becoming Bills. We are merely enacting the provisions of the Ordinances and they are being enacted by reference. I realise that it would be unfair to the House if subsequently we did not bring these Ordinances in the form of Bills so that the House may have an opportunity of expressing its opinion on the various provisions of the Bill and making such amendments therein as it may wish to do. Had I not had that idea in mind then surely the House could have said that I was adopting a very short cut. But in view of the fact that under the law as it stands all these Ordinances will lapse within six weeks of the sitting of the Assembly, in view also of the fact that it is administratively absolutely impossible that these Ordinances can be turned into Acts within the period of six weeks, and in view further of the fact that some of these Ordinances or all these Ordinances are of the greatest importance and should be made Acts, we have no other alternative but to have recourse to this method of first enacting the provisions of this Act and then subsequently when the opportunity occurs to place these Ordinances before the House as separate Bills for enactment.

As I said, Sir, this is not unprecedented and I refer the honourable members to Act No. I of 1915 of the Central Legislature which was enacted precisely for the same reasons as these. May I read the provisions of the Act? An Act to continue in force the provisions of certain Ordinances. Whereas the Ordinances mentioned in the Schedule are temporary in their duration and in virtue of section 23 of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, are limited to expire within the period of six months from their promulgation, as they are limited to expire within six weeks of the sitting of the Assembly.

Whereas owing to the state of war existing between His Majesty the King Emperor and certain foreign Powers—and whereas in view of the fact that it is physically and legislatively impossible to enact these Ordinances within the time at our disposal—it is expedient to provide for the continuance as in this Act mentioned of the provisions contained in those Ordinances, it is hereby enacted as follows:—

"1. This Act may be called the Emergency Legislation Continuance Act, 1915.

2. The provisions of the Ordinances mentioned in the Schedule shall have effect as if they had been enacted by the Governor-General in Council and shall be in force during the continuance of the present war and for a period of six months thereafter:

Provided that the Governor-General in Council may by notification in the *Gazette of India* direct that any provision in any of the said Ordinances shall cease to be in force at any earlier date which may be specified in such notification."

I even read passages which are not necessary for our purpose because the Act is a short one and I think the House should be in seizin of the Act. Now, the Schedule comes. There are nine Ordinances, all in the Schedule. They are Ordinances made by the Governor-General of India under section 23 of the Indian Councils Act and accordingly the Act was enacted and the provisions of the Ordinances came into force.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: If you go back, no legislation will be necessary.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: We are bound now by the Government of India Act, 1935. The Leader of the House has referred to Acts of 1861. All these have been repealed. Under the Government of India Act, 1935, according to the provisions of section 88, there cannot be any ordinance or continuing Ordinance except as provided under section 88(2). There was no such prohibition in the earlier Act or in the ninth schedule of the

Government of India Act under section 72. Therefore that could be continued, but under the Constitution Act of 1935 it has been made absolutely clear that a Governor's Ordinance or ministerial Ordinance in the provinces and the Governor-General's Ordinance—all these will cease to have any effect after six weeks from the commencement of the Assembly, and that being the express provision my honourable friends cannot move a Bill for the continuation of that Ordinance which will clearly violate the express provisions of the Constitution Act as embodied in sub-section (2)(a), because if there is any Ordinance by virtue of the contrivance which the Leader of the House is seeking to resort to, then section 88(2) can be made nugatory, but no legislation can have the privilege of working against the express provisions of this Constitution Act.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: May I repeat, Sir, that we are not continuing Ordinances? We are enacting on the floor of the House, as every Legislature has got the right to enact, the provisions of those Ordinances by virtue of this provision. As I have stated I entirely agree with the honourable member that we cannot continue the Ordinances merely by coming to the floor of this House and saying that we are enacting the Ordinances and continuing them.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: If Mr. Suhrawardy agrees with us, then he may look at clause 2 of section 89. The language is "the Ordinance shall continue in operation for six months." May I make one submission, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is now 7-30. I do not want to give my ruling now. I have heard the submissions of the honourable members. I will give my ruling later on.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-35 p.m. till 4-30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 12th February, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 12th February, 1947, at 4-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 207 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Supplementaries to Starred Question No. 27 (which was carried over from 11th February, 1947).

Mr. BANKU BEHARI MANDAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that about 40 villages were taken for military purposes and that although the miltary have gone away they have not yet returned the lands?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: The lands will be returned as soon as the military authorities pass order for release.

Mr. BANKU BEHARI MANDAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that refugee camps have been opened in some of these lands?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Yes, some of these lands were secured from the military authorities for the purpose.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps are being taken to get immediate sanction from the military authorities for the return of these lands to the owners?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: This Government has written to the military authorities, and they cannot do anything more. In some cases local officers have taken the initiative of their own accord and in anticipation of military sanction have taken possession of the lands.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if sanction was necessary for giving shelter to the Bihar refugees?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Yes.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: When was that sanction obtained by the Government?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I have already said that some of the properties were given back to the owners in anticipation of military sanction.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I want the date when they were returned?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Mr. BANKU BEHARI MANDAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when will the Bihar refugees evacuate those villages?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I submit that this does not arise out of this question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why this discrimination was shown in obtaining sanction for the Bihar refugees while no sanction was obtained from the military authorities for giving them over to the original owners?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: My friend is labouring under a misapprehension. My answer was, in some cases the local officers took the initiative and put the owners back to their lands in anticipation of military sanction.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of setting up a machinery to move the military authorities and the Central Government in the matter?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: No.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: With reference to answer (*a*)(*iii*) wherein it is stated that out of 10,130 acres of land requisitioned 3,936 acres have been released up to date, does the Hon'ble Minister consider this result to be satisfactory?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of appointing a committee of the members of this House to enter into the evacuees' problem in the province?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I submit this question does not arise.

Khas land in Bagerhat subdivision.

*28. **Dr. MOZAMMEL HOSSAIN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there are thousand acres of "*khas* lands" in the *char* area in the Bagerhat subdivision; and

(*b*) whether the lands are settled by auction at a very high rate every year;

(*c*) if the answer to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why the lands are not settled permanently?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlur RAHMAN): (*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

Mr. NARENDRA SINGH SINGHI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to elucidate the reasons for his negative answer in (*a*)?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: The answer is "No".

Mr. NARENDRA SINGH SINGHI: What does he mean by "No"? Does he mean that there are no *char* lands in the Bagerhat subdivision?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: The question is whether it is a fact that there are thousand acres of "*khas* lands" in the *char* area in the Bagerhat subdivision, and my answer is "No".

Mr. DHIRENRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any *khas* land in this *char* area in the Bagerhat subdivision?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলবেন কি যে ১নং প্রশ্নাবে যে 'No' উত্তর দেওয়া হয়েছে সেটা কি thousand acreকে বোঝাচেছ, না char acreকে বোঝাচেছ—না Khas landকে বোঝাচেছ, না তিনটাকেই বোঝাচেছ ?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: The answer to the question is there.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any *khas* land at all in the Bagerhat subdivision, and, if so, what would be the area of such *khas* land in that subdivision?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So far as the first part of your question is concerned, it is a repetition of the question put by Mr. Datta, to which a reply has been given.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the approximate area of *khas* land within that subdivision?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Will the honourable member kindly repeat his question?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any *khas* land at all in the Bagerhat subdivision, and, if so, what is the approximate area of such *khas* land?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: There are no *khas* lands in the sense in which it has been used in the question, but there are some attached lands of the Government.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: What is the meaning of "attached land"?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Attached lands are lands which have been attached by the Government under some section of the Civil Procedure Code.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state by what process of law those lands were attached—whether under a decree of any court of law or by any executive fiat?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Those lands were attached under various provisions of the Acts in force.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any *khas* land in any *char* in the Bagerhat subdivision?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question has already been answered.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the lands were attached and for what purposes?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: If my friends go through the question a bit minutely and carefully, they will understand that the questioner's object was to find out whether *khas* lands were settled.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: We do not want a sermon from the Parliamentary Secretary. We want a straight answer.

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Your question does not deserve any answer.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Do not usurp the function of the Deputy Speaker. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us the dates when these attachments were made and the purposes for which the attachments were made?

Mr. DEPUPTY SPEAKER: This question does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer given just now by the Parliamentary Secretary, viz., that these lands were attached by the Government under certain provisions of law. If that is the answer, the relevant question would be for elucidating the purposes for which the lands were attached and we will put further question as to whether the lands are being used for the purposes for which these lands were attached.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not necessary for me to give the reasons, but I am giving the reasons all the same. The question relates to *khas* lands and the reply was that there was no *khas* land. In reply to a supplementary question, it has been said that there are some lands under attachment—they are not *khas* lands. So, I am not allowing a further supplementary on this.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, may I make a submission to you? If an answer is given to a question and on a supplementary question allowed by you a further answer is given which reveals any new facts, then members of this House are entitled to ask further supplementary questions based on answers already given by the Hon'ble Minister. That is an undisputed position relating to the rules on questions. Now, as the Hon'ble Minister has volunteered to give this House a piece of information that there were lands attached by Government, one is entitled to ask supplementary questions as to when that land was attached, as to whom that land belonged at the time when it was attached and for what purpose it was attached—these are relevant supplementary questions which, I submit, ought to be allowed because they directly arise out of the answer given.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not accept the first proposition which you seem to propound that if a question is relevant to the answer to any supplementary question, that question must in all cases be allowed. However, I do not want to give a ruling on that point, but so far as this question is concerned, I do not allow this question.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether those attached lands were settled by auction?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Yes.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: What is the rate of rent?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any land has been settled by auction during the last 5 years?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I have nothing further to say. I have already stated that some attached lands are settled year to year by auction.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the rate at which the lands are attached?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any lands settled from among these *khas* lands were attached permanently?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: These attached lands cannot be settled permanently and as there is no *khas* land to be settled permanently, that question does not arise.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: What does the Government propose to do with the attached lands, as the Hon'ble Minister has referred to?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Attached lands, as I have already stated, are settled year to year by auction. They cannot be permanently settled, because there is no certainty as to when the lands are going to be released.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Do I understand the Hon'ble Minister as stating that lands attached by the Government for certain purposes are being auctioned from year to year and settled yearly?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Yes.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any of the owners of the attached lands have applied for settlement or rather release of the lands for the purpose of their own use?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the lands have been settled with agriculturists or zemindars or *jotedars*?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Scale of pay of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons.

6. Mr. Md. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture (Veterinary) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the present scale of pay of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons;
(*b*) whether it is a fact that a number of posts is lying vacant for want of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons; and
(*c*) whether the Government propose to revise the scale of pay of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE (VETERINARY) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Hossain): (*a*) The present scale of pay of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons is Rs. 50—6/2—80—5/2—115.

(*b*) No. These vacancies have been filled up by Veterinary Graduates available from time to time.

(*c*) Yes. As a temporary measure all Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, who are in receipt of a pay less than Rs.75 per mensem have been allowed to draw an *ad hoc* pay of Rs.75 per mensem, pending the general revision of their pay scale.

Increase of one seat for Scheduled Castes in ward 29.

7. Mr. PRAMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the present number of Scheduled Caste population in each ward of the Calcutta Corporation; and
(*ii*) the number of seats of Councillors reserved for members of Scheduled Caste community in each ward?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that the number of Scheduled Caste population is larger in ward 29 than in the wards 3, 18, 19 and 28; and
(*ii*) that in ward 29 there is no seat reserved for Scheduled Castes?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of—

(*i*) amending the Calcutta Municipal Act; and

(*ii*) allotting two seats to ward 29 including one seat reserved for Scheduled Castes?

(*d*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of—

(*i*) reducing one seat from among the three nominated seats; and

(*ii*) allotting one seat to the Scheduled Caste representing ward 29?

(*e*) In view of the larger population in ward 29 in comparison with the other four wards mentioned above, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of reducing one Scheduled Caste seat reserved for each of these wards and reserving one seat for Scheduled Castes in ward 29 instead?

(*f*) If the answers to (*d*) and (*e*) are in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

MINISTER in charge of the LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*)(*i*) A statement showing the Scheduled Caste population in each ward of the Calcutta Corporation according to the Census of 1941, is laid on the Table. The present number of members of Scheduled Castes in each ward is not available.

(*ii*) Four seats of Councillors are reserved for members of Scheduled Castes, one each in wards 3, 18, 19 and 28.

(*b*) (*i*) According to the Census of 1941 the population of Scheduled Castes in ward 29 is less than that in ward 3 and larger than that in wards 18, 19 and 28.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*c*), (*d*), (*e*) and (*f*) The allocation of seats in the different wards was not based on population alone but some other factors such as importance of particular wards, the municipal rates paid by a particular community, etc., were taken into consideration. Government is not considering at present the desirability of amending the Calcutta Municipal Act so as to provide a seat in ward 29 for members of the Scheduled Castes. If seats are to be reserved on the basis of population alone, several other wards, viz., wards 8, 9, 20, 21, 22, 24 and 25 which have each a larger population than in ward 29 have a better claim for seats for members of Scheduled Castes than ward 29.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a)(i) of Unstarred Question No. 7, showing the population of Scheduled Castes in the various wards of the Calcutta Corporation according to the Census of 1941.

1.	Shampukur ..	494	17.	Baman Bastee ..	64
2.	Kumartali ..	374	18.	Tangra ..	1,441
3.	Bartolla ..	2,504	19.	Entally ..	1,931
4.	Sukea Street ..	1,744	20.	Baniapukur ..	2,766
5.	Jorabagan ..	1,063	21.	Ballygunge ..	4,266
6.	Jorasanko ..	1,641	22.	Bhowanipur ..	2,453
7.	Barabazar ..	187	23.	Kalighat ..	1,307
8.	Colootola ..	3,259	24.	Alipore ..	2,670
9.	Muchipara ..	2,586	25.	Ekbalpore ..	2,296
10.	Bowbazar ..	1,172	26.	Watgunge and Hastings	1,944
11.	Puddapukur ..	781	27.	Tollygunge ..	2,164
12.	Waterloo Street ..	235	28.	Beliaghata ..	1,635
13.	Fenwick Bazar ..	1,961	29.	Manicktala ..	2,183
14.	Taltola ..	1,324	30.	Belgachia ..	976
15.	Kalinga ..	872	31.	Satpukur ..	668
16.	Park Street ..	260	32.	Cossipore ..	1,196

Amendment of Bengal Village Self-Government Act.

8. Mr. M. A. SALAM: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government propose to amend the Bengal Village Self-Government Act in the light of the recommendations of the Rowlands Committee and the Chowkidari Enquiry Committee in the near future; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government propose to amend it in accordance with the present-day political, social and economic backgrounds?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: (*a*) The recommendations of the Rowlands Committee and the Chowkidari Enquiry Committee are under consideration of Government. It is proposed to amend the Bengal Village Self-Government Act to implement the recommendations of the Committees which are accepted by Government as soon as possible.

(*b*) Yes, as far as practicable.

Settlement of persons evicted from bustees.

9. Dr. A. M. MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Calcutta Improvement Trust have served notices to different bustees asking the inhabitants to leave their homesteads for acquiring the vacant plots for the improvement of the city;

(*b*) if so, the number of such evicted people;

(*c*) how many Muslims and how many non-Muslims are affected; and

(*d*) whether the Government have made any arrangement for providing these men with new homes?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: (*a*) No: the Land Acquisition Collector, Calcutta, is the authority responsible for giving vacant possession to the Trust. He has given notices to vacate in two schemes which were sanctioned three years ago but which could not be implemented on account of the war.

(*b*) and (*c*) "Two thousand and ninety-nine families, of which 559 are Muslims and 1,540 are Hindus. The number of persons involved is not known."

(*d*) No: but the Trust has a rehousing scheme, to be ready shortly, in the Entally area; and is preparing a rehousing scheme in the Grey Street area, in order to minimise inconvenience to displaced persons. It may be added that the Land Acquisition Collector is generous in allowing time to displaced persons for finding other accommodation.

Functions of Chief Medical Officers of districts.

10. Mr. SERAJUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health Department be pleased to state what are the functions of Chief Medical Officers of districts?

(*b*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that most of the time of Chief Medical Officer of Midnapore district is spent up in attending to routine matters such as issuing permits of quinine, etc.; and

(*ii*) that the public thereby is deprived of his expert advice as a medical man?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: (*a*) By the term "Chief Medical Officer" presumably the honourable member means, "Civil Surgeon" of the district there being no such officer as Chief Medical Officer of Midnapore.

The Civil Surgeon is in charge of the Medical Administration of the district and has to perform duties in connection with running the administration, e.g.,—

(1) Holding the direct charge of the Sadar Hospital.

(2) Carrying on Medical Examination of the employees of Government offices and granting certificates.

(3) Carrying on inspection and supervision regarding the opening and maintenance of all hospitals and dispensaries in the district.

(4) In some districts management of jail work as Superintendent of the Jail.

(*b*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Does not arise.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Representation of Bengal in Food and Agricultural Conference at Copenhagen.

***29. Mr. MD. ISRAIL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state whether the Government of Bengal recommended any member of this House for the position of a non-official associate member of All-India Delegation to the Food and Agricultural Conference to be held this year at Copenhagen, Denmark?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the recommendation of this Government has been accepted by the Government of India?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a person other than the one recommended by this Government has been deputed by the India Government?

(*e*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any protest was lodged by this Government for not accepting their recommendation in this matter?

(*f*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is an official or non-official?

(*g*) If he is an official, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is he;

(*ii*) how he managed to get his name accepted by the India Government

(*iii*) whether the Government of Bengal was consulted in selecting him

(*iv*) whether he visited Delhi during last 2 months; if so, how many times; and

(*v*) the reason of his visit to Delhi?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Hossain): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) I am not aware of the reason. The final selection was made by the Government of India.

(*d*) and (*f*) With the concurrence of the Provincial Government an official from Bengal was included in the delegation by the Government of India.

(*e*) No. The question of a protest did not arise as the Government of India were not bound to accept the recommendation of the Provincial Government and there was no assurance at any stage that such recommendation would be accepted.

(*g*) (*i*) He is Secretary to Government in the Department of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) He was selected by the Government of India with the concurrence of the Provincial Government.

(*iv*) He visited Delhi only once during the period mentioned. That was after he had been selected.

(*v*) For receiving advice from the Government of India and making necessary arrangements for the journey to Europe.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: With reference to question (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there was any instruction from the Central Government to recommend the names of the members of this House?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No, there was no definite instruction about that. They only wanted suggestions.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when was the selection made?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The decision of the Central Government was communicated to this Provincial Government by their letter, dated the 22nd August, 1946.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any reason was assigned for not accepting the recommendation of the Government of Bengal?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Bengal Government recommended any member of this House?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Yes.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the name of the member recommended?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Mr. T. Ali, M.L.A., Deputy Speaker of this House.

Combating drinking habit among colliery population.

***30. Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Excise Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the comparative figures of the number of shops for the sale of country-made liquor within the mining settlement area, Asansol, for the last five years;

(*b*) the total annual sale proceeds from the shops for the last five years; and

(*c*) what steps do the Government propose to take to combat the drinking habit among the colliery population?

MINISTER in charge of the EXCISE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*b*) The figures are not readily available.

(*c*) The policy at present pursued by Government is to promote prohibition by upgrading of taxation and gradual abolition of shops on the recommendation of the Excise Licensing Boards which are manned largely by representatives of public bodies and of the public in general.

I want to supplement this answer. The members of this House are perhaps aware that we have introduced prohibition now in the district of Bakarganj. Prohibition was in force in the district of Noakhali and parts of Chittagong and Tippera last year and this year we are proposing that from 1st April, prohibition will be introduced in the district of Bakarganj.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 30.

Mining Area.	No. of shops.				
	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Asansol	5	5	5	5	5
Barakar	6	6	6	6	6
Raniganj	6	6	6	6	6
Ondal	3	3	3	3	3

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: With reference to answer (*c*), where the policy of the Government has been laid down as one of gradual abolition of shops, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many shops out of 20 in Asansol are going to be closed down this year?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid, I cannot answer that question off-hand, but I want to clarify this policy. The policy is that when any licence falls vacant, when there is a vacancy of a shop, then it is generally not granted to anybody else. Therefore, there is a gradual reduction in the number of liquor and country-liquor shops.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: In view of the elucidation the Hon'ble Minister has made is he in a position to state whether prohibition is going to be introduced in the Burdwan district this year?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: In view of the answer given by the Hon'ble Minister, may we know whether prohibition is likely to be introduced in any of the Western Bengal districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: This year? No, Sir.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: In the coming year, I mean.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot say what will happen next year. We propose to extend the prohibition from district to district and this year prohibition will be enforced in two districts completely and in two other districts partially.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in which area in the Tippera district prohibition has been introduced?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot give the area off-hand, but I can state generally that the area contiguous to the district of Noakhali has been declared as a dry area.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what the loss of revenue will be from the enforcement of prohibition in the district of Bakarganj and two other areas?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: In the district of Bakarganj, it may be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 80,000 or a lakh of rupees. I may add that this will be counterbalanced by an increase in the duty leviable on the imported foreign liquor, and we have increased this duty on the imported foreign liquor from the 1st of February. In other words, we will have this prohibition without much loss to the provincial revenue. This revenue will be contributed partly by Mr. Stark. (Laughter.)

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many liquor shops were abolished in the district of Noakhali and during which period?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Prohibition was introduced in Noakhali some time ago in accordance with the decision of the then Ministry, but during the war period this prohibition was kept suspended, and after the assumption of office by this Ministry last year, we reintroduced prohibition in the district of Noakhali.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many liquor shops since then have been abolished within the district?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid, I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (*a*), in the tabular from we find that there has been no abolition in those places, viz., Asansol, Barakar, Raniganj and Ondal. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enlighten us in which districts and in what number the shops have been abolished for the purpose of prohibition?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I have already stated that the policy adopted by Government is gradual abolition of shops, this is on a provincewide scale, and total abolition of shops in those places which have been declared as dry by the Government of Bengal.

Mr. RAJANI KANTA PRAMANIK: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলবেন কি এই যে বলা হয়েছে যে Licensing Board যে সমস্ত Shop abolish হবে বলে recommend করেছেন অধিকাংশ স্থানেই তাঁদের কথা শোনা হয়নি?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: That is not exactly correct.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the district of Noakhali was selected for total prohibition?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Because demand from that district was the greatest for prohibition.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether as a result of total prohibition people of Noakhali have become more sober?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: With reference to the Excise Licensing Boards, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which public bodies are represented in those Boards?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Municipalities, district boards and other recognised associations and if the honourable member will refer

to the constitution of these Excise Licensing Boards—I am sure he will be able to get a copy in the library—he will easily find the associations and public bodies represented on the Boards.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many liquor shops were started in the district of Noakhali during the war for military purposes?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I have not got the figures with me here.

Mr. MADAR BUX: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is going to introduce prohibition in North Bengal as a whole?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: We are not introducing prohibition on zonal system. We are introducing prohibition gradually on district basis. So the question of North Bengal as a whole does not arise.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any demand for prohibition from West Bengal districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The demand is not very pressing.

Mr. BANKU BIHARI MANDAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will give any compensation to the vendors who have lost their shops?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Of course, we had a very strong representation from excise vendors on this point. They said that the Government of Bombay have adopted a scheme of rehabilitation of the excise vendors who are thrown out of employment as a result of the Bombay Government's policy and they wanted that we should take up a similar scheme though they could not supply us with facts and figures of the Bombay Scheme. I promised to consider the matter and ask the Government of Bombay for their schemes, but, as a matter of fact, I could not render any help to these vendors at this stage.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when this Government have written to the Bombay Government for their scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The representation was received only a few days back.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has written to the Bombay Government or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am not very sure. This took place only about 7 or 8 days ago. I do not know whether a letter has actually gone or not.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if they are serious about writing to the Bombay Government and if any answer is obtained whether they are serious about giving effect to that?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot outline what the Government's attitude will then be. The only thing that I could promise so far is to refer the matter to the Bombay Government asking for their schemes. After the schemes are received, we can consider the merits of the schemes. We cannot make any commitment on behalf of Government at this stage.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many years will they take for total prohibition of Bengal provincewise, if they proceed in this way?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid, I cannot give the date. I am not an astrologer. The problem of introduction of prohibition over the whole province is a problem which bristles with difficulties, and therefore, it is not possible to state when we can have a provincewise prohibition. Then again so far as Calcutta is concerned, the matter stands on a different footing altogether, because it is a cosmopolitan city. It is a moot point, whether the Government have any right to interfere with the liberties of other nationals. It is a problem which will be seriously dealt with, but I am afraid, I cannot state at this stage, now when we can have a complete and total prohibition in this province.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government contemplates in the near future to introduce prohibition in labour areas?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: We have not outlined yet what our next step will be, but we have decided that there should be prohibition and rapid extension of prohibition in the province. The present is merely a short-term measure which we have adopted in Noakhali and we are now extending it to Bakarganj. But what our long-term policy will be is still engaging the attention of Government.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Bombay Government is starting prohibition with the town of Bombay, because in Bombay the question of prohibition is more urgent? I submit that in towns like Calcutta and Bombay prohibition should be immediately introduced.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The Government of Bombay have introduced prohibition in their metropolitan city of Bombay, but that is no reason why Bengal should blindly follow any step taken by the Government of Bombay or any other Government. Bengal has its own problem and is competent to take up and tackle its own problem in its own way. We have before us, Sir, the famous prohibition policy of the Government of the United States of America, which was adopted under the leadership of Mr. Pussifoot Johnson which, however, ultimately proved to be a failure. So this is a problem which must be tackled very carefully and after having taken all kinds of precautionary measures. We cannot rush into this measure without taking into consideration the repercussions of this policy. Therefore we cannot take up a big venture by taking up Calcutta first.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: In view of the answer just given regarding a reference made by the Hon'ble Minister to the prohibition policy of the United States of America, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is considering the desirability of resiling from the position now taken up by him as they did then in America?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. I said that we must proceed very cautiously and slowly. We cannot rush in any measure and I said that even a State like the United States of America realised the mistake and resiled. Therefore, I emphasized the point that we have to proceed cautiously and carefully.

Regarding certain discharged employees of Civil Supplies Department.

***31. Mr. JYOTI BASU:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state if it is a fact that the following employees of the Civil Supplies Department were discharged during the last three months:—

(*i*) Tridib Nath Das (Inspector, Transportation);

(*ii*) Bireswar Bhattacharjee (Sub-Inspector, Transportation);

(*iii*) Dhirendra Nath Das (Sub-Inspector, Transportation);

(*iv*) Sailendra Nath Guha Nag (Sub-Inspector, Transportation); and

(*v*) Salil Banerjee (Inspector, Transportation)?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the period of service of each employee;

(*ii*) if any or more of them had been given promotion in their respective service;

(*iii*) if any or more of these employees were given any warning prior to his discharge;

(*iv*) if any communication was sent to any or more of those discharged people in regard to their respective work or behaviour prior to the issue of the letter of discharge; and

(*v*) if any report about the discharged persons was received from the Commissioner of Calcutta Police or any other officer of the Calcutta Police prior to their discharge and, if so, what nature of reports?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of holding inquiries into the grounds on which employees named in (*a*) were discharged?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Gofran): (*a*) Yes, assuming Sailendra Nath Guha Nag to be a mistake for Sailendra Nath Guha Neogi.

(*b*) (*i*) Tridibnath Das—2 years 12 days. Bireswar Bhattacharjee—2 years 14 days. Dhirendra C. Das—1 year 5 months 24 days. Salil Banerjee—2 years 3 months 10 days. Sailendra Nath Guha Neogi—1 year 3 months 23 days.

(*ii*) Babu Tridib Nath Das was promoted from Sub-Inspector to Inspector.

(*iii*) and (*iv*) No.

(*v*) Yes. The reports in all cases showed them to be undesirable persons.

(*c*) No.

Once a person is recruited to Government service he is precluded from belonging to any political association. A history showing a conviction, say, for defalcation of public funds or a history of participation in subversive activities is considered by Government to render that person unsuitable for employment in Government service. In the particular cases mentioned in this question information showing these employees to be undesirable was not received until they had been in the Department some time.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: With regard to answer (*b*)(*iii*), and (*iv*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether now that the Muslim League Government is in power, the Government thinks it desirable to give a person a chance to defend himself before he is discharged from service?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: As a matter of fact, it has been the long-standing practice that whenever any employee is found out to be unsuitable on police verification his services are instantaneously dispensed with without any notification on either side.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, my question has not been answered. I asked f in view of the fact that there has been a change of Government in Bengal, does the Government think it desirable to give a person a chance o defend himself before he is discharged from service?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: I am afraid, I would request the ionourable member to refer the matter to the Home Department, as it is iot within the province of the Civil Supplies Department to answer a juestion of this nature.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: With regard to answer (*b*)(*v*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the nature of the report or what was he nature of the reports against these persons?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: The police reports are confidential ocuments and I have already stated in my answer that the reports in all ases showed them to be undesirable persons.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what s the nature of the undesirability of these persons?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: With regard to the explanation given in answer *b*)(*v*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these people 'ere shown a history showing their convictions or defalcations of public inds or a history of their participation in subversive activities?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: I am afraid, I am not in a position o give out the exact nature of the police reports, for I have already tated that the police reports are treated as confidential documents. But his much, I can say that these officers were, some of them, convicted reviously; some of them were externed from some areas and so on and so orth.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state 'hether he is aware that these persons carried on anti-corruption drive iside the department and that is why they were discharged?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: I am sorry, I am not aware of that.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble linister be pleased to state whether association with a political organisa- ion like the Congress, the Muslim League, the Communist Party, makes ne unsuitable for Government service?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: I have already stated that a question f this nature may kindly be referred to the Home Department for an nswer. The Civil Supplies Department is not, I am afraid, in a position o answer this question.

Dr. PRATAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: The Hon'ble Minister has aid that some persons were convicted. Will he say for what offences?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: I am sorry whether in contravention f the long-standing practice, I am in a position to give anything about he police report which is considered as confidential.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be leased to state why the enquiries were not made before these persons were ecruited?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: As a matter of fact, when an employee s actually appointed or taken in, he is taken in on the explicit condition hat his services will be forthwith dissolved or dispensed with as soon as e is found to be an undesirable person on police verification. On this ondition he is taken in.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that a large number of Muslim employees who were wrongly implicated by the connivance of the police have been honourably acquitted by the court, but not reappointed so far?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: I am not aware of that.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether persons engaged in activities such as the leaders and other workers of Muslim League people are engaged in the Punjab will disable them from public service?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, apart from the police report, what were the convictions in court or otherwise of those persons who have been discharged from service?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is no use repeating the question. He has repeatedly refused to give details of the police reports. You are again asking for the details of the police reports.

Dr. PROTAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: The Hon'ble Minister stated about the conviction. Conviction is a court conviction, convicted by the court. It is public document. It cannot be a secret report of the police. I want information from you whether he can say the conviction is a secret report of the police.

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: In reply to the supplementary question of Dr. Protap Chandra Guha Roy, of course so far as conviction matters are concerned, it is a matter which has been dealt with in an open court and in respect of that, I think I may risk a reply. Dhirendra Nath Das is unsuitable for employment as he is known to be a member of a revolutionary party and was convicted and sentenced to 2 years' rigorous imprisonment, under section 19F of the Arms Act and to 6 years' under section 20 of that Act, on 11th August, 1934, the sentences to run concurrently. His connection with a subversive party was reported till 1940.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: What about others? I wanted to know about all these persons.

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: As a matter of fact, I gave out the name of the person who was actually convicted, because the man was tried in the open court.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that there are many gentlemen holding responsible posts in the Civil Supplies Department, who were discharged from other departments of Government for the same reason?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: I am not aware of any such incident.

Supply of essentials to floating fishermen through Co-operative Fishermen's Societies.

***32. Mr. HARAN CHANDRA BURMAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Fisheries Department be pleased to state whether the Co-operative Fishermen's Societies are supplied with yarn, coal-tar, kerosene oil, timber and iron for boat, cloth and rice for distribution amongst the floating fishermen?

(*b*) If not, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Hossain): (*a*) Yes, wherever suitable societies are available.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, if he is aware that there exists a co-operative society at Swarupnagar, in the district of 24-Parganas, subdivision Basirhat, which applied for help and was refused help?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I am not aware.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how these articles are distributed, where suitable societies are not available?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Through other agencies.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: What are other agencies please?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Individual contractors.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he thinks it desirable to enquire as to whether the society at Swarupnagar, applied for help and was refused?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: No question of notice. Does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to hold an enquiry as to whether the society at Swarupnagar applied for help and the help was refused?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: If any such representation is made Government will certainly consider it.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government is aware that fishermen in many localities in Bengal do not get these things properly?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I am not aware. No such complaint has been received by the Government.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many co-operative fishermen societies there are at present in Bengal?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: There are at present 8 co-operative societies which have been functioning as such.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister please let us know how much yarn was supplied through these co-operative societies during the last two years?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: So far as this question is concerned, no such information was asked for and I cannot give it off-hand.

Appointment of supervising clerks for jute grading.

*33. **Mr. KHAIRAT HOSSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Industries Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of supervising clerks for jute grading appointed this year;

(*ii*) how the appointments were made; and

(*iii*) whether any such appointment was made by the Special Officer, Jute?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*iii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of such appointments?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed): (*a*) (*i*) Twenty.

(*ii*), (*iii*) and (*b*) Ten appointments were made by the Special Officer, Jute Prices, Bengal, and the remaining ten through the Subdivisional Magistrates concerned.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of these appointments were made on the recommendation of the members of the Assembly?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Sir, I do not think any of them.

Mr. MD. ABDUS SALAM: Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge be pleased to state whether the communal ratio is observed?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I think so, Sir.

Mr. ASAN ALI MUKTEAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the duties of the supervising clerk for jute grading?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice on that.

Appointment of detenus in Government departments.

*34. **Mr. CHARU CHANDRA MAHANTY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state the method regarding the appointment or otherwise of the detenus in the department of the Government or of non-official authorities?

(*b*) Do the Government consider the desirability of issuing a statement to the District Officials as to the attitude they should take with regard to the appointment of the detenus in various official and non-official departments?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the approval of the District Magistrates with regard to the appointments made by the managing committee of the unaided High English Schools is necessary? If so, the reason thereof?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) and (*b*). The exact meaning of the questions is not understood. If the honourable member desires to know whether it is Government's policy to give preference to ex-detenus for appointment to Government service the answer is in the negative. Whether or not any particular ex-detenu is considered suitable for appointment to a post under Government would be decided after considering his application. Government have no information regarding appointments to non-official bodies.

(*c*) Not necessary.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in many cases ex-detenus are not appointed, or, if appointed, are discharged on the police report?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have no such information.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that police will always submit adverse report in regard to an ex-detenu?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I am not aware.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many ex-detenus applied for service during the last two years?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I ask for notice.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any detenu has been in service under the Government at present?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I cannot say off-hand.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is an ex-detenu sitting next to him, who is now holding an office under the Crown?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Yes, but he is not an officer of the Government.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Servant of the Crown. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether applications of ex-detenus for appointment in the different departments held by the Minister are refused, because they happen to be ex-detenus?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have no such information.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he will consider the desirability of maintaining communal ratio rules in giving appointment to ex-detenus? (Laughter.)

(No reply.)

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is the policy of the present Government to see the ex-detenus settled in life?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Government very much desire that they should be settled in life, but every individual case for Government service will be considered on its own merits.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that an officer in the Fire Brigade has been discharged, because he was a detenu before after four years of service?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I ask for notice.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is prepared to recommend to the Minister, Civil Supplies Department, to issue some licenses to these detenus, if they apply?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: That is a request for action.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any district in Bengal where teachers in unaided schools are required to be approved before they are appointed by the District Magistrate?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have no such information.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he will kindly enquire, if there is any such district?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: If any specific case is brought to the notice of Government, Government will certainly enquire.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to note down that in Midnapore, the District Magistrate's approval is necessary before a teacher is appointed in an unaided school?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: It is not necessary.

Allegation against Hindu Police Officer of Kotwali police-station, Midnapore.

*35. **Mr. SERAJUDDIN AHAMMAD:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that about two or three months ago a Hindu Police officer of Midnapore, Kotwali police-station, threw down the Holy Quoran, belonging to a Muslim head constable;

(*b*) whether any enquiry was made into the matter by Deputy Superintendent of Police and Circle Inspector, Midnapore, and a joint report submitted; and

(*c*) if so, what action has been taken on it?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) and (*b*) Such an allegation was made to Government, but on enquiry by the Superintendent of Police, Midnapore, it was found not to be correct.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who made this allegation?

Mr. K. NASARULLAH: The allegation was made by one of the public.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the effect of such an allegation was to incite class against class and community against community and whether any steps were taken against the persons who made this irresponsible allegation?

Mr. K. NASARULLAH: I think it was not to incite community against community.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government made an enquiry as to who was the person responsible for making this irresponsible allegation?

Mr. K. NASARULLAH: I want notice for that.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government consider the desirability of finding out as to who make such an irresponsible allegation and taking proceedings against such persons?

Mr. K. NASARULLAH: Government has got nothing more to add.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the name of the Superintendent of Police, who enquired?

Mr. K. NASARULLAH: I think it was Mr. Pollard.

Khan Bahadur SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of the persons who were examined in the enquiry?

Mr. K. NASARULLAH: I want notice.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the name of the person who alleged that a religious book was thrown out?

Mr. K. NASARULLAH: I want notice.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the enquiry made by Deputy Superintendent of Police and Circle Inspector was to the effect that it was an absolutely correct report?

Mr. K. NASARULLAH: I have mentioned here that the enquiry was made by the Superintendent of Police and not by Deputy Superintendent of Police or Circle Inspector.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any enquiry was made by the Deputy Superintendent of Police and the Circle Inspector?

Mr. K. NASARULLAH: There is nothing from which to say that.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister tell us whether there was at all any enquiry by the Circle Inspector?

Mr. K. NASARULLAH: The enquiry was made by the Superintendent of Police.

Mr. MADAR BUX: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the name of the Superintendent of Police?

Mr. K. NASARULLAH: I have already mentioned it.

Advertisement for filling up of some posts under Smoke Nuisances Commission, Bengal.

***36. Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state if it is a fact—

(*i*) that applications are invited from the Muslim candidates only to fill the post of Chief Inspector and Secretary, Smoke Nuisances Commission, Bengal; and

(*ii*) that the Bengal Government advertised this post in a Delhi paper also?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the reasons for advertising in a Delhi paper; and

(*ii*) whether the duties and functions of the post are such as only the Muslims are fit enough to perform?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact—

(*i*) that under the Recruitment Rules for this service, the Chief Inspector and the Inspectors of Smoke Nuisances are grouped together as being in the same line of service;

(*ii*) that the Chief Inspector's post is normally filled by promotion from among the Inspectors and that Chief Inspector's post is like selection grade post in the service;

(*iii*) that under the Recruitment Rules direct recruitment to this post can only be made by declaring all the existing Inspectors to be unfit and devoid of administrative ability and power of organisation;

(*iv*) that the Senior Inspector has put in 19 years' service and that he has officiated for 4½ years as Chief Inspector; and

(*v*) that the Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission in 1941 were very emphatically of opinion that the post of Chief Inspector should alway be filled by selection from amongst the Inspectors?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for making direct recruitment to fill the post of Chief Inspector, departmental inspectors being declared ineligible to apply?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes. Public Service Commission advertised the post in a Delhi paper, also in several other newspapers circulating in other parts of India.

(*b*) (*i*) When a suitable candidate from a community for which a post is reserved under the Communal Ratio Rules is not available in Bengal attempts are made to obtain a candidate of that community from outside Bengal before throwing the post open to all communities. In this case the post was advertised by the Public Service Commission in and outside Bengal simultaneously presumably in order to save time so that if no suitable Muslim candidate was available in Bengal the Commission might proceed to consider application from Muslim candidates from outside Bengal without having to advertise the post again.

(*ii*) No. The question does not really arise as the reservation in favour of Muslims was made under the Communal Ratio Rules and not on grounds of duties and functions of the post.

(*c*) (*i*) The posts of Inspectors and that of the Chief Inspector, Smoke Nuisances, belong to the Bengal Provincial Service.

(*ii*) No. Under the Recruitment Rules promotion is not a method of recruitment to the post of Chief Inspector, Smoke Nuisances.

(*iii*) No.

(*iv*) Yes.

(*v*) Yes, but in considering this particular vacancy which has now arisen the Smoke Nuisances Commission recommended in its resolution, dated the 13th November, 1945, that the post should be filled by advertisement and appointment through the Public Service Commission.

(*d*) Under the Recruitment Rules selection as opposed to promotion is the only method of filling this post. As regards Departmental Inspectors being declared ineligible this was done by the Public Service Commission as the Commission took the view that under the existing rules where a post was filled by selection departmental candidates should not be allowed to compete.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to whether he considers it desirable that Muslims from other provinces should be imported, if suitable Bengali Muslims are not available instead of throwing out that post to a scheduled caste candidate and then to candidates of other communities?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I disallow that question. You are asking the Hon'ble Minister to give his opinion.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that when the Smoke Nuisances Commission in 1941 recommended that the post of Chief Inspector is always to be filled up by selection from among Inspectors, the Senior Inspector was officiating as Chief Inspector?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I have already stated that under the recruitment rules this post should be filled by selection which means that this post should be filled up by recruitment from outside the cadre of the existing departmental officers.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister please elucidate whether in the communal ratio rules it is stated that if Muslims are not available in Bengal they may be brought from outside Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: There is a Government decision on this point. The point is this that if under the communal ratio rules a post is earmarked for a member of a particular community it is to be filled by that community alone, but preference is given to a candidate belonging to the province, but if a candidate is not available in the

province then a candidate is to be taken from outside the province. But the post is to be filled up by a member of the community for which it is earmarked.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if a Muslim is not available in India whether it is the policy of Government to advertise outside India in order to obtain a Muslim?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: That is not so far the policy of Government?

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the object of the communal ratio rules was to benefit the Muslims of this province?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot state what the object of the communal ratio rules was. But this much I can say that the object was to ensure that there was adequate representation of all communities so far as posts under Government are concerned.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of Bengal is in the habit of bringing non-Muslims from other provinces also?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Government are not in the habit of importing officers from outside Bengal.

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state from which province the present Chief Inspector has been recruited?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: At present the post is filled up by a departmental officer, who is officiating in the post, but the Public Service Commission have recommended the name of a particular candidate, but appointment has not yet been made, because the existing officiating officer has submitted a memorial to His Excellency the Governor and the Governor is considering the memorial and as far as I know appointment has not yet been made.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether when filling up the vacancies earmarked for Hindus, if suitable Hindu candidates are not available, Government advertise in Northern India papers to find out, if suitable non-Bengalee Hindu candidates are available?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I think that is the policy of Government in respect of all communities, if suitable Bengalee candidates of the communities concerned are not available. But I am not aware of the non-availability of suitable Bengalee non-Muslim candidates.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Questions over.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, this question should then be held over.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, it cannot be held over. I have given sufficient time to this question.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Sir, if it is not held over, may I just put one or two more questions?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can allow you to put one more question, but it cannot be held over.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability——

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: On a point of order, Sir. I have no objection, if he is allowed to put on or two more supplementary questions. But the rules are mandatory that the questions shall be over by the first hour, and you have no power to extend the time even by a minute.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I know that.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Then, Sir, this question be held over.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No.

Procedure regarding admission and putting of questions.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, I have an important point to make with regard to the Speaker's duty relating to putting of questions and admitting questions,, and to this, I feel constrained to invite your attention.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar, I do not want to hear you just now. I will discuss the matter with you afterwards.

Point of privilege.

Mr. A. F. STARK: On a point of privilege, Sir. May I refer to a circular circulated today with reference to the Acquisition of Waste Lands Bill. This circular asks for amendments to be tabled before 3 p.m. on the 15th of February. I submit that is not a reasonable time to ask members to table amendments to such an important and far-reaching Bill. And I would suggest that the reasonable period for the purpose is one week and not less.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Stark, the Bill as scheduled is coming on the 18th February and the date has been fixed for the 15th February as the last date for amendments. It would be extremely difficult for the office to change it now.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Sir, I realise that difficulty. But this Bill was introduced only yesterday and it is an important and far-reaching Bill which requires careful examination. I do not think it is reasonable to ask honourable members to table amendments in two days.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will ask the Government and the office about this and let you know.

Point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think Mr. Roy, the Leader of the Opposition, wanted to make some submission on the point of order raised by Dr. Mookerjee yesterday. Even though that point of order was completed yesterday, I may allow Mr. Roy to make his submission.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Sir, my friend, the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party, and Mr. Sinha wanted to make their submissions and mention fresh points. I would request you to allow these two members at least to make their submissions to you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will there be fresh points of order?

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Yes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have nothing to do with fresh points of order, now.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: I hope, Sir, you will allow the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party and Mr. Sinha to raise fresh points of order and to make their submissions.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give my ruling after the prayer recess.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. Dr. Mookerjee raised a point of order yesterday involving two points. His first point is that before the discussion of the resolutions given notice of, under section 88 of the Government of India Act, this Bill should not be introduced—I mean the Bengal Ordinances Temporary Enactment Bill. Yesterday, I agreed with the submission made by Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha that these are two distinct things. As Mr. Sinha pointed out yesterday, the House may not approve of the Government's action in passing the Ordinances; all the same the House may approve of a Bill on the same line due to changed circumstances or for good resasons. So there is no illegality or impropriety in introduring this Bill before the discussion of a resolution.

As regards the time, I have already requested the Hon'ble the Leader of the House to allot a time for discussion of the resolutions before the expiry of six weeks from the date of re-assembly of the House in this session.

The next point involved in the point of order raised by Dr. Mookerjee is that the Bill should not have been introduced in the present form, particularly the schedule of this description containing the titles of the Ordinances, the provisions of which are to be re-enacted. As regards that point, the purpose of the proposed legislation is not to extend the life of the Ordinances in contravention of the provisions of section 88 of the Government of India Act, 1935, the duration of which is specifically limited to six weeks after the re-assembly of the Legislature, but it is a provision for re-enacting the provisions of the Ordinances by the Legislature and providing provisions in a Bill so that they may be embodied and enacted in a Bill for a limited period of time. The Hon'ble Minister has placed a consolidated Bill containing the provisions of the Ordinances. It appears that it has been done to avoid administrative difficulties and to give sufficient time to the Legislature to enact the provisions of the Ordinances. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has cited a precedent. That precedent is to be found in Act I of 1915—the Emergency Legislation Continuance Act, under the provisions of the Indian Councils Act. The precedent of continuance in regard to temporary Ordinances by a legislative measure of the nature proposed is to be found in that Act. I think in spite of this precedent it is not a very healthy precedent, but at the same time I find there are authorities which hold that it is competent for the Government to legislate by reference and in this case a Bill of this type is to be described as legislation by reference and the Hon'ble Minister under the rules is not debarred from introducing a Bill of this nature.

Hence I hold that the Hon'ble Minister is competent to introduce the Bill in this form. I disallow the point of order.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of order—a fresh point of order. I submit, Sir, that this House has no power to legislate. My reason is this.

Mr. MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: When a decision has been given on this point can he raise a point of order? I refer you to rule 15. It will be sheer waste of time, because it will be repetition of the arguments advanced previously and a ruling given.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: You have not heard my argument.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ahmed, you must at least hear the point of order raised by the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Bill proposes to deal with the constitution of the Civic Guards. My submission before you, Sir, is that the constitution of the Civic Guard is not to be found in any of the lists enumerated in the Government of India Act, in the Seventh Schedule. It is not to be found in List No. I, it is not to be found in List No. II and it is not to be found in List No. III. Mr. Deputy Speaker, you are aware that this legislature has power to legislate on subjects enumerated in Lists Nos. II and III. List No. III deals with the Provincial Legislative List and List No. II is a concurrent list. The Bengal Legislative Assembly has power to legislate on these lists. This Civic Guard constitution is not to be found in any of the lists. Then, Sir, we shall have to fall back upon section 104 of the Government of India Act. If the subject to be dealt with, is not to be found in any of the lists I, II and III, then the Governor General under section 104 of the Government of India Act may by public notification empower either the Federal Legislature or a Provincial Legislature to enact a law with respect to any matter not enumerated in any of the lists in the Seventh Schedule to this Act including a law imposing a tax not mentioned in any such list. Then the residual power of the legislature is vested in the Governor General and the Governor General may empower any Legislative Assembly, the Federal as well as the Provincial Assembly, to legislate on the subject. But this power has not been given by notification as enumerated in section 104 of the Government of India Act. So, Sir, my submission is that this Legislative Assembly has no power to legislate as it deals with the constitution of the Civic Guard. It may be contended, Sir——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Datta, I am not going to hear a long speech on a point of order. I have understood your point. You kindly tell me if I am right in understanding your point of order. You say that it does not come under the provincial lists and it is not a provincial subject. So this House has no power to legislate on this point. Is this your point?

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: This is my point.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have understood your point. You better raise the point of order when you come to the Schedule. Your point of order refers to one item of the Schedule. You have only mentioned the Bengal Civic Guard Ordinance; you have not mentioned the other subjects.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: I am sure that the other subjects will come under the Public Order, but the constitution of the Civic Guard cannot under any circumstances come under the Public Order. But this Bill is a comprehensive Bill, one subject is not to be omitted.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Datta, don't you think that this point should be taken up when you come to the Schedule?

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: No, Sir; because when you are to deal with clause 2, you will find that under this clause the provisions of each of the Ordinances specified in the Schedule shall have effect as if there had been an enactment of an Act of the Provincial Legislature. The Bill cannot be considered piecemeal. If the Bill deals with any subject not enumerated in any of the lists, the Bill cannot be put forward.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: If I may reply, there can be no question to the mind of any reasonable person that the Civic Guard comes within Entry I of the Provinial Legislative List—the Public Order. You may call them Home Guards, you may set up any organisation for the purposes of Public Order and it will come under that list. It is not at all necessary that all the possible nomenclatures must be mentioned in a particular list.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the Leader of the House please state what are the functions of Civic Guards?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: They are the functions of the police and this will come under Item 3 and includes Railway and Village Police. It will come under the Provincial Legislative List, items 1 and 3, Maintenance of Public Order. By whatever name you like to call this organisation it comes as a supplementary police organisation, because item No. 3 includes village police.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: May I be permitted to make a few remarks?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not want your assistance at this stage.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: In this matter you will be pleased to look to the Ordinance No. VIII of 1940, because if you will look to the Civic Guard Ordinance, initially it deals with Ordinance No. VIII of 1940.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. I have looked into the matter.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I am quite sure that when the Government of India Act, 1935, was enacted there was no contemplation of the Civic Guards and hence there was a necessity of the residual power to be given to the Viceroy. (A VOICE: public order.) Not a public order.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Civic Guard was a public disorder!

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please. The Hon'ble Deputy Leader of the Opposition has raised a point of order. His contention is that Bengal Civic Guards Ordinance, 1946, and Bengal Collective Fines Ordinance, 1946, do not come under any items of the Provincial Legislative List. As such this House is not competent to legislate on these lines. But on looking into the constitution of Civic Guards in section 2 of the Ordinance VIII of 1946, as referred to by the honourable the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I find that all these members are to discharge such functions with reference to protection of person, security of property or the public safety, as may be assigned to them in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance and the rules made thereunder. In view of these objects of the Civic Guards Organisation, I hold that it may come either under Item 1 of the Provincial Legislative List or under 3 of the Provincial Legislative List, and, as such, the House is competent to legislate on these lines.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, on a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have you got a fresh point of order?

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Yes, Sir. My point of order is this.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, will you give me a chance afterwards?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will hear you afterwards.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: My point of order, Sir, is this that the Bill cannot be legislated by this House in the shape in which it is presented. I am raising this point on a different ground. My point is that you have ruled that the provisions of the Ordinances——

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, it is the same point of order.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I was going to assign a fresh ground for the same point of order. The schedule, as it has been presented in the Act, leaves no scope for us to send in amendments to the provisions of the Ordinances themselves. It is a question of wholesale acceptance or rejection.

Mr. MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Sir, that was the argument advanced by Dr. Mookerjee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have understood your point, Mr. Sinha. You are referring to rules.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Under the rule we are entitled to send in amendments.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What rule do you refer to?

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: The rule is about provision providing amendment to the Bill that is to be enacted when a motion for consideration is made.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What rule?

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Rules 59, 60—all these Assembly Procedure Rules. There it has been stated that we can send in amendments to the provisions of the Bill. If these Ordinances are being enacted as Bills, then, Sir, we are being deprived of any opportunity of sending amendments to the provisions of the Bills. It is a case of wholesale acceptance or rejection.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. Have you got a fresh point of order?

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Yes, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall hear you afterwards.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: May I point out, Sir, that this point of order of Mr. Sinha is wholly academic? The honourable members had an opportunity to send in amendments and the only amendment that they have sent in has been for deletion of the Ordinance. They themselves have realised only too well that the only amendment which they can send is to delete the Ordinance and not against the provisions. Had they thought otherwise, they might have sent certain amendments to the provisions. They have not done so. I submit, Sir, that this question cannot even arise since they have sent no amendment at all. Any point of order that they may raise now upon the point is wholly academic and does not in my humble opinion at this stage call for decision.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sinha, I had in my mind, the point which you have raised when I gave my ruling on the point of order raised by Dr. Mookerjee. I did not express it in so many words. It is for this reason that I did not consider it to be a very healthy procedure. But the ruling that I have given on Dr. Mookerjee's point of order covers your point also. Legislation of this type is called legislation by

reference. (Mr. J. C. GUPTA: If it is by reference then it is continuing.) It may be undesirable, but it is not illegal, and considering various difficulties and considering also the fact that it is not against any rules, I held that the Bill is in order. So I do not think I need give any further opinion on your point of order.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, I should like to make my point clear.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: On a point of order, Sir. I would like to draw the attention of the Deputy Speaker to the fact that he must follow the agenda laid down in the order paper. Item 2 must be taken up first before we take up item 3.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: On a point of privilege, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Basu, you will have your chance when we have taken up consideration of the Bill; when the motion for consideration is moved. I will now hear Mr. Ghose if he has got anything to say.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, you had given me a chance just now when Mr. Mohammed Ali interrupted me.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: How can you refuse me a chance?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Basu, will you kindly take your seat? Mr. Ghose wants to make a submission.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: After you have heard the point of privilege, the point of order may come up.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: The point of order cannot be shut out.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me hear Mr. Ghose first.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Sir, there has been really a misconception on the part of the members in regard to this Bill, as you yourself have said. Sir, I will not take more than three minutes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of privilege?

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: My point of privilege is this: that we have not had sufficient time, because of the form in which the Bill is presented to put forward amendments and there was a real misconception as to how this should be treated. I submit that we should be given time either by way of short-notice amendments to be put immediately now or we should be given further time in order that we may move amendments. This is a very serious matter and legislation should not be hustled through. We understand Government's administrative difficulties, but at the same time we must have our say in legislative matters. Otherwise, why we are here in this House, if we cannot give our consideration in the matter that Government is bringing forward before this House? That is my submission, Sir, and I hope you will give us sufficient time in this connection.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The honourable members have had more than a week.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have had sufficient time.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: I submit that there was a genuine misconception as to how amendments to this type of a Bill should be put forward. It might be due to our ignorance: I plead that, but you must realise——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No point of privilege arises out of that consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: May I draw your attention to the agenda as laid out in the order paper? It is item No. 2, which should be taken up now before item No. 3.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: On a point of order, Sir——

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I beg to lay the Bengal Civil Pioneer Force Ordinance, 1947, on the table.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: On a point of order, Sir. My point of order, as I have been trying to make out for the last two days, is that this Bill cannot be brought before the House. It is void *ab initio*, because it is firstly——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Basu, will you kindly take your seat when I am on my legs? If you see the list of business, you will find there is an amendment to the list of business. I actually allowed you to raise the point of order on the motion that has been brought by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister. If you have got a point of order with regard to the Bengal Ordinances Temporary Enactment Bill, 1947, I have already told you that you can raise it when the motion for consideration of that Bill is moved by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister. Now, what is your point of order?

Mr. JYOTI BASU: My point of order is that firstly in this Bill which is before us there are financial provisions and, as such, it does not comply with the rules according to which financial provisions should be brought before the House. That is, I am referring to the collective fines given in the schedule. The second point has been referred to by the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party to which you have given an answer. My third point is that this House can certainly legislate by reference as you have said, Sir, but what I want to say is that it can legislate only by reference to previous Acts of this House, but never by reference to Ordinances. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should like to submit with regard to this point of order that it is no use saying that the Ordinances had been laid before us. As far as this Bill is concerned, the clauses of the Ordinances—140 or so in number—which are before us have not been presented in the Bill to which we cannot give amendments even if we want to. The Hon'ble the Leader of the House has pointed out that we could have given amendments, but Sir, we cannot give amendments because so far as this Bill is concerned, in the body of the Bill, the substantive clauses of the Ordinances are not there, and so they are outside the scope of the Bill. So unless——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Basu, I have understood your point. Your first point is that financial provisions are involved: so rules with regard to such matters should be complied with. Your second point is that no legislation by reference can be taken up. Are these the two points?

Mr. JYOTI BASU: In the body of the Bill, the clauses of each Ordinance are not there. They are not set out in the Bill. So I say this is unconstitutional, illegal and *ultra vires* and cannot be taken up before this House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So far as the first point of Mr. Basu is concerned, I hold that this is a vague point of order, because he has not

mentioned any rule with which Government have not complied. He has only said that before introducing the Bill the rules regarding financial provisions have not been complied with.

With regard to the second point, I am afraid it is not an improvement on the point of order raised by Dr. Mookerjee yesterday. His point of order is covered by the point of order raised by Dr. Mookerjee.

As regards the other point about which Mr. Gupta has said that legislation by reference must refer to a previous Act, I would refer the honourable member concerned to section 311 of the Government of India Act, 1935, clause (*6*), which says: "Any reference in this Act to Federal Acts or laws or Provincial Acts or laws, or to Acts or laws of the Federal or a Provincial Legislature, shall be construed as including a reference to an Ordinance made by the Governor-General or a Governor-General's Act or, as the case may be, to an Ordinance made by a Governor or a Governor's Act." So in accordance with section 311 of the Government of India Act, 1935, reference to an Ordinance must be construed as reference to an Act. This disposes of his second point.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: That refers to Ordinances which are valid and existing, and not to Ordinances which are lapsing.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But it is valid until the lapse of six weeks, from the 1st day of the re-assembly of the session.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I have already introduced the resolutions. What about the notices given by me?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your notices will be considered and your notices have been accepted.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will they not get priority?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The same principle is involved, because discussion of the resolutions disapproving the Ordinances is not distinct from discussion disapproving the Bill.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I rise on a point of privilege, Sir. It is an important point which involves the privilege of the members of the House. We have been given notice of a resolution consisting of only two sections, the Schedule, and the Statement of Objects and Reasons. That is the Bill before the House—the Bengal Ordinances Temporary Enactment Bill, 1947. Now, Sir, you have clearly ruled and decided that the provisions and clauses of all the Ordinances mentioned in the Schedule are an integral part of this Bill because it is a legislation by reference. Now, Sir, until this ruling was given by you, these clauses and provisions contained in the Ordinances mentioned in the Schedule were not a part of the Bill. Now the privilege of members is defined under rule 60 of the Assembly Procedure Rules. It says: "Any member who wishes to move an amendment to any Bill under the consideration of the Assembly shall give notice thereof except as provided in rule 77, at least ten days before the first day on which the Bill is to be taken into consideration by the Assembly and shall, together with the notice, send a copy of the amendment which he desires to move." Sir, we could not possibly, when this Bill was circulated, move amendments except on the clauses of the Bill which were there.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have understood your point.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: If you have understood my point, I hope you will be pleased to see that members are given the opportunity to give notice of amendments on the clauses of the amendments too and that may not be shut out in compliance with rule 16, which I have just read out to you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar, it may be that there was some misconception in the minds of the members as to what amendments can be moved and what amendments cannot be moved, but there was legislation by reference even before my ruling. Whether I give the ruling today or not, the character of legislation by reference could not have been taken away in the absence of a ruling from me. Since legislation by reference, it was the duty of the honourable members to give such notices of amendments as such legislation permits and it would be then for the Chair to decide what amendments would be allowed and what amendments would not be allowed, but since it has not been done, I do not think I should extend the time for giving fresh notices to move amendments again. As regards the difficulty pointed out by Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar, I may only repeat that it is due to this difficulty that I thought and I said that it was not a very desirable method of legislation.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, in view of your observation that it is not a very desirable procedure, I hope you will be pleased to exercise your judgment and powers to see that at least the procedure may be made a little more desirable now that we are faced with a Bill in which legislation by reference is intended and therefore I suggest that in view of your observation you may be pleased to consider how you may safeguard the privilege of members of giving amendments.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have tried to make the procedure as much desirable as possible.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: You may be pleased to suspend the rules as you were pleased to do to oblige the Government side and allow us to give short notice on the different clauses of the amendments of the Ordinances as necessary. You were pleased to oblige the Treasury benches, the Government, on such issues. I hope, Sir, in fairness and justice, you will not refuse to suspend the rules and allow us to give notice.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I also understand the English language. What did you mean by saying that I obliged the Treasury benches by suspending the rules?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I only mean that under circumstances of urgency from the standpoint of Government—administrative difficulty—they wished to move certain things and wished the Speaker to exercise his discretionary power to suspend the rules and not go according to the rules. I submit that in view of such circumstances you may always exercise your discretion in favour of one party or the other and the party concerned naturally feels obliged and we, Sir, shall certainly feel obliged if in the circumstances you hold that in view of this unhappy procedure, as you have been pleased to observe, you suspend the rules and enable members who wish to do so to give notice of amendments.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: A particular party may feel happy or flattered, but the Chair has no intention of obliging any party. The Chair will discharge its duties not with the intention of obliging either the Government Party or the Opposition.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I would eschew the expression "obliging" and say "in discharge of your duty". You may be pleased to do your duty in order to give the necessary scope to the Opposition and to the members of the House generally. I am sorry if my knowledge of English has been defective and conveyed a wrong meaning to you. I did not mean anything more than this that in discharge of your duty and in fairness to the members of the House and particularly to the Opposition, you may be pleased to give us room to

give notice of amendments. You are taking a very grave responsibility when this House is faced with having to legislate by reference on as many as 10 Ordinances of diverse subjects with which are involved the interests of all the people of Bengal.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: May I rise on a point of order? The Hon'ble Finance Minister who was acting as the Leader of the House the other day assured the House that short-notice amendments would be entertained.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is no point of order.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: There is one important point to which your attention should be drawn. You have just now said that misconception might have arisen in the minds of members as regards the powers of members to give amendments with regard to the provisions of Ordinances, but you are helpless in that behalf.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not say "I am helpless". I said, I did not want to extend time.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: But there is one Ordinance—Ordinance No. II of 1946, the Bengal Civic Guards and Collective Fines Continuance Ordinance, 1946—which does not embody the provisions in the Ordinance itself. All that the Ordinance says is that certain previous Ordinances will continue in operation in Bengal with certain exceptions. Even today we do not know what those Ordinances are. The papers have not yet been circulated to the members of the Legislative Assembly and we are supposed to pass that piece of legislation.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is merely repeating your second point of order.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: No. You said that time for giving notice could not be extended. I am speaking in support of what Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar said.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Notices of amendments as are admissible under the rules will be accepted.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I now bow down to your decision that they are admissible under the rules.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I say that the way in which the Bill is being introduced is permissible under the rules.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I am not questioning that. But, at any rate, members of the legislature are entitled to receive copies of the Ordinances which are supposed to be passed into law today and even now these Ordinances have not been circulated. Particularly with regard to one Ordinance, viz., Ordinance No. II of 1946, you will find that the only provision there is that "the Ordinances specified in the Schedule as subsequently amended and as further amended by this Ordinance to the extent mentioned in column 4 of the Schedule shall continue in operation and shall have the same force and effect as if they were Acts of the Provincial Legislature", and we are supposed to accept that as a piece of legislative measure by accepting the proposal which has been made by the Hon'ble Minister. At any rate, you ask the Government to circulate those Ordinances which are going to be passed into law. That is a very fair request.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Yes, Sir, the copies of the Ordinances have not been circulated. It is an Ordinance by reference. Dr. Mookerjee has referred to the fact that in the Ordinance reference has been made to another Ordinance. It is a legislation by reference.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: By reference to a reference.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Yes, by reference to a reference. The Ordinance which was passed by the Governor of Bengal has been circulated.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: It is just like looking for a black cat in a dark room which is not there. Some light may be thrown on the reference to the reference made by Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee—that particular piece of paper which is supposed to have been enacted by the previous Ordinance.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I deplore this method. I have already said when I introduced or rather during the course of my speech yesterday that I deplore this method of legislation, but Government has got no other alternative, but to resort to this method in order to keep these Ordinances or the provisions of these Ordinances alive until we can put them in the form of a Bill before this House. Now, if Mr. Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar wants light, he will get plenty of light, because these will come in the form of a Bill before the House when the House will have ample opportunity to dissect the provisions of the Bill and to move as many amendments as possible and to reject the Bill should they desire to do so. All these will come before you in course of time. (Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Meanwhile you accept a Bill for one year without knowing what it contains.) No, Sir, they will start as soon as you give an opportunity to the Government to do so, that means to say, with very great respect to the Opposition, if they do not take so much time in moving points of order which are unnecessary.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Sir, the Leader of the House has just said that the Opposition is taking time and raising points of order. I want through you, Sir, to convey to the Leader of the House that it is the duty of the Opposition to correct a wrong procedure; it is the duty of the Opposition to point out to the Leader of the House through you, Sir, that defective legislation may not be undertaken. Some of the provisions of the Ordinances would be necessary, but if you do not do things in a proper way, passing a Bill in an illegal manner would not enable them to administer those sections and may be questioned in courts of law at any time. Therefore we are not obstructing; we are not taking time, but we are pointing out how they should proceed and we want to assist them in passing necessary legislation in the proper way.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: On a point of privilege, Sir. May I point out one thing? The Hon'ble Minister tells us that we will have an opportunity to discuss the entire provisions of all the Ordinances which will be taken up one after another separately. Suppose this Bill is passed and Government do not place those Bills for consideration or discussion separately, their intention is served; by passing the Bengal Ordinance Temporary Enactment Bill, all these Ordinances are passed into Acts. They do not come forward with all the Bills separately. We will have no opportunity of discussing the provisions of this Bill, because their purpose is served.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no point of privilege.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: We will be deprived of the right which the Hon'ble Minister wants to give us.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I have understood your point. It is no point of privilege. If I am to agree with you, I have got to assume that the Hon'ble Minister is telling a lie.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: No, no. I am only speaking about bringing the Bills separately.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, the honourable member is mistaken. The purpose of Government will not be served by enacting this Bill. The purpose of Government will only be served when these Bills are made into permanent legislation.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Why is this provision there, when Government have been empowered to extend the life of the Bill? If the intention of Government is to bring forward all these Bills separately, what is the reason for incorporating that provision that Government will be empowered to extend the Temporary Provisions Enactment Bill as they wish? They may not bring up those Bills.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Sir, I will not take more than two minutes. I want to support the request of Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee that at least we ought to have the Ordinances which are the subject matter of the present Bill. We have not got all of them. Secondly, I support the request made by my honourable friend Mr. Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar that we should be allowed a little time to give short-notice amendments. Sir, I hope you will bear with me for a minute. This is a new procedure. We are only creating precedents. So far as I remember, we have never legislated by reference in this House. The Hon'ble Chief Minister referred to a precedent. He had to go 25 years back—to 1915. Before you give your ruling, Sir, I want you to consider this point seriously, because this is the first time that we are faced with this position that a Bill is introduced and we have not a chance of giving notice of amendments to the provisions of the Bill. You yourself felt, and rightly felt, that this is not a proper method. In view of this, I again request the postponement of consideration of this Bill at least till tomorrow or at least let us have a chance of giving short-notice amendments. Lastly, we should also have copies of the Ordinances before we proceed further.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: With great respect to the Leader of the Opposition, does he think it reasonable that there should be amendments to the provisions of the Bill even if they were admissible? Even if they were admissible, does he think it reasonable that there should be amendments to the provisions of this Bill when these Bills will be placed before him again separately for consideration, and the Opposition will have the completest opportunity to make amendments to the provisions of the Bill? I am merely asking about the question of reasonableness. The Hon'ble Minister is asking the Speaker to exercise certain power on account of reasonableness. Does the honourable Leader of the Opposition consider it reasonable, when these Bills will come before the House for consideration, when the House will consider each clause separately, when he can dissect every word separately and every clause separately, when he will find enough time for raising points of order, that it should be necessary again to bring amendments to the provisions of this Bill at this stage?

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: With great respect to the Leader of the House, I do think it is reasonable that we should have a chance of discussing the provisions. Secondly, I put one question. Supposing following this precedent, another Bill is brought before the House with a schedule like this containing the Bargadars Bill, the Abolition of Zemindary System, the Secondary Education, etc., will that be reasonable? I would like the Hon'ble Chief Minister to answer that.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I made one mistake. I am sorry it was overlooked by us, namely, legislation by reference. This was not a new thing for the House. We have legislated by reference before in the Bengal Expiry Laws Act of 1938. (Dr. SYAMAPRASAD

MOOKERJEE: One Bill!) There were four enactments in the schedule. (Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: It must have been a question of time again.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: With regard to the request of Dr. Mookerjee supported by the Leader of the Opposition, I am told that the honourable members of the Opposition have got copies of the Ordinances.

(Cries of "no, no" from Opposition benches.)

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Not all of them.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: So far as the Civic Guards and the Collective Fines Ordinances are concerned, we have not got copies of the Ordinances.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, may I hand over the Civic Guards Ordinance?

(At this stage the House was adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(*After adjournment.*)

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I am glad to be able to announce that we have come to some kind of arrangement regarding the procedure. I feel, Sir, that the argument of the Opposition that a discussion on the resolutions will be futile after this Bill has been passed into law has great validity. For this reason, Sir, I propose and I hope that the members of the Opposition and the members of the House will accept this notice that we shall discuss the resolutions tomorrow, the 13th, and again on the 18th and thereafter the Bill will be placed before the House for consideration and passed on the 20th.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: I entirely agree with this procedure and I thank the Hon'ble the Chief Minister.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In view of the agreement arrived at between the Hon'ble the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition, I decide that the resolutions shall be discussed as announced by the Hon'ble the Leader of the House and that the Bill will be taken up later on. But there are a few other items to be taken up today.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Before you proceed to the next item of business, I should like to know whether the amendments regarding the Ordinances will be laid and, if laid, whether members will be given opportunities for a discussion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would request the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party to consult the Leader of the Opposition in this matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, as an indication of our *bona fides* that we intend to put these Bills through this session as much as possible, I beg to introduce the Civic Guards Bill, 1947.

(Secretary read the short title of the Bill.)

I beg also to introduce the Collective Fines Bill, 1947.

(Secretary read the short title of the Bill.)

Sir, I beg further to introduce the Dacca Area Security Bill, 1947.

(Secretary read the short title of the Bill.)

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-12 p.m. till 4-30 p.m. on Thursday, the 13th February, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 13th February, 1947, at 4-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 204 members.

Oath of allegiance.

Mr. E. A. Hutchison, elected by the Calcutta and Suburbs (European) Constituency, took the oath of allegiance.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Anti-malaria operations in Calcutta.

*37. **Mr. EBRAHIM KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Local Self-Government Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

(*i*) the staff employed by the Corporation for carrying out anti-malaria operations in the city;

(*ii*) the nature and extent of work performed by them; and

(*iii*) the amount spent by the Corporation for the purpose (including cost of drugs, etc.) during the last five years?

(*b*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that the staff employed and the amount spent by the Corporation for the purpose is inadequate;

(*ii*) that the Government directed the Corporation to re-organise its Mosquito Control Department but the Corporation has not carried out the directive;

(*iii*) that as a result, incidence of malaria in the city increased greatly and Government had to engage its own staff in 1944-45 and 1945-46 to carry out certain urgent anti-malaria operations in the city at a monthly cost of about Rs.10,000; and

(*iv*) that a further proposal for carrying out some further anti-malaria operations in the city at an estimated cost of about Rs.1 lakh and a half is also under consideration of Government?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*)(*iv*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for making this special treatment of the city at the cost of rural rate-payers?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of withholding the aid given to the Calcutta Corporation in this connection?

MINISTER in charge of the HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*)(*i*)—

Mosquito Control Officer	...	1
Entomologist	...	1
Laboratory Assistant	...	1

Surveyor	...	1
Clerks	...	4
Inspectors	...	6
Senior Sub-Inspectors	...	38
Junior Sub-Inspectors	...	100
Mistries	...	4
Coolies	...	300
Peons	...	8

(*ii*) *Mosquito Control Officer.*—He is the Officer in charge of the administration of the department. He formulates the scheme and programme of work and supervises and controls the work of his subordinate staff.

Inspectors.—These are the actual supervising staff, responsible for the entire work of each district and the added areas and some areas outside the city. They are in charge of the whole staff working in his area, take their attendance, draw the pay bills of labour staff, indent oils and other equipment, maintain the stores and implement ready for work, attend to public complaints, make malaria and mosquito surveys and carry out all directions of the Mosquito Control Officer.

Senior Sub-Inspectors.—In special units where work is usually heavy six coolies have been given to each Mosquito Sub-Inspector who directs his gang in regard to cleansing, oiling, etc. In the sewered area, i.e., city proper, each Mosquito Sub-Inspector, who is in charge of a Ward or part of a large Ward, has been given 6 to 12 men under him. The entire anti-mosquito operation of a Ward is directed by the Mosquito Sub-Inspector, who is held responsible for any neglect of duties. He is in charge of equipment and oils, and also of supply and repair of them. He maintains a record book in which programme of the weekly work list of house inspection cards, and list of water reservoirs, tanks, drains, cess-pits, etc., have been noted down along with a map of the Ward.

Junior Sub-Inspectors.—These have been employed specially for house-to-house inspection accompanied by one or two coolies who carry oils, sprayers, syringes, ladders, etc. Each of them has been provided with an authority card for permission to enter a house. They look for breeding places of mosquito in premises and take suitable actions with the help of the coolies.

(*iii*) 1941-42—Rs.1,87,836 *plus* Rs.7,764, cost of anti-malaria drugs.

1942-43—Rs.1,31,243 *plus* Rs.4,995, cost of anti-malaria drugs.

1943-44—Rs.1,19,703 *plus* Rs.9,433, cost of anti-malaria drugs.

1944-45—Rs.1,30,886 *plus* Rs.26,667, cost of anti-malaria drugs.

1945-46—Rs.1,95,900 *plus* Rs.12,773, cost of anti-malaria drugs.

This does not include the salaries, etc., of the medical staff at the dispensaries.

(*b*)(*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes. The Corporation has reorganised the department in its own way and suggested that their scheme should be given at least a year's trial. Government have agreed to this.

(*iii*) The outbreak of malaria epidemic in Calcutta occurred prior to issue of Government directives on the subject.

Government incurred the following expenditure on anti-malaria operations in the city of Calcutta—

		Rs.
1944-45	...	43,000
1945-46	...	1,15,000

(*iv*) The reference apparently is to Part I of P.W.R. Scheme No. 188 for the control of malaria in the Fringe area of the Salt Lakes to the east of Calcutta. This area does not lie within the jurisdiction of the Calcutta Corporation.

A special anti-malaria drive for the *bustee* areas of Calcutta is, however, under contemplation, but no definite conclusion has yet been reached as to whether it is feasible to put such a scheme into operation.

(*c*) The *bustee* areas being particularly liable to epidemic diseases deserve special measures in addition to the measures taken by the Corporation for the city as a whole.

(*d*) This question does not arise until the recognised Mosquito Control Department of the Corporation is definitely considered to have failed in their efforts.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: With reference to answer (*b*)(*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any difference between the Corporation scheme of anti-malaria measures and the Government directive with regard to them?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, there is a good deal of difference between the two and, as a matter of fact, when Government undertook to have this anti-malaria drive, they not only did not receive co-operation from the Corporation, but the Corporation hindered the progress of the Government's drive.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will Government explain what is the difference between the Government scheme and the Corporation scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid, I cannot outline both the schemes and give the details of the difference in the two schemes.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: With reference to answer (*b*)(*iv*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any progress has been made since this reply was drafted in respect of the anti-malaria drive in the *bustee* areas?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, we were considering a scheme for having a sort of D.D.T. spray drive in the *bustee* areas of Calcutta, but then there were technical experts who said that a simple drive of the nature contemplated would not be of any use unless we tackled the problem of eradicating mosquito larvae in the *dobas* or pools where water accumulated and we found another difficulty in tackling the problem, because they had set up hatcheries in those areas and the Calcutta Corporation had also given those pools a sort of lease and permissive right to start hatcheries and therefore we felt that if we sprayed D.D.T., it might not only interfere with the work of hatcheries but it might kill small fish fries and therefore unless this matter is settled at a higher level, it is not possible now to launch that D.D.T. spray drive in the *bustee* areas of Calcutta. But we propose to take up this matter again and we hope that we will be able to organise a drive in the *bustee* areas with D.D.T.

Mr. PROVAS CHANDRA LAHIRI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether after such a big paraphernalia of mosquito-control staff, mosquitos have been controlled and malaria has been eradicated?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The honourable member himself is aware of the answer and he knows that the answer obviously is that malaria has not yet been controlled. It is a very vast problem and it cannot be controlled by a scheme of this kind, but every effort

is made to control the outbreak of malaria or the outbreak of epidemic in the city and the honourable member is perhaps aware that after the Government undertook a drive, the incidence of this disease fell in the city of Calcutta.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the main defects of the Corporation scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I have already said that I am unable to give any technical opinion on the scheme just at present offhand.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he will consider the desirability of giving effect to the Bhore Committee report as far as malaria is concerned in this province?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, the recommendations of the Bhore Committee are being examined by the Government and those parts of it which can be given effect to will be given effect to.

Mr. MUHAMMAD RAFIQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Calcutta Corporation closed this department and reopened it only at the instance of the Government and if the expert opinion is that unless the salt lakes are filled up, this amount of 1 lakh or 2 lakhs is a mere waste of public money?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir, it is not a waste of public money, because we have found, having undertaken a drive, that the incidence of disease did fall after a drive was organised in Calcutta and it is felt that it will not be able to eradicate this disease or the scheme will not be successful in controlling the disease entirely, but good work can be done so that the incidence of disease can be brought down.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what progress has been perceived in the matter of eradication of malaria as a result of the *bustee* drive?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The statistics show that there has been a fall in the incidence of the disease.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the scheme undertaken by the Corporation had better results or the scheme undertaken by Govrnment had better results?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The scheme undertaken by Government proved very successful and the Corporation was merely tinkering with their scheme. As I have just outlined earlier, they did not bring into the scope of the operation of the scheme, the hatcheries which were set up within the *bustee* areas of Calcutta.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in reference to the fact that the Corporation has not sufficient funds for expenditure in connection with the malaria control drive whether the Government considers the desirability of placing more funds at the hands of the Corporation to enable it to fully cope with this problem?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. Government does not consider it desirable. On the other hand, Government feels that the Corporation should first set its own house in order before they come up to Government for funds.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the resources of the Corporation are being spent in the bhadralog areas and the *bustees* are being neglected.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: By whom?

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: By the Corporation.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I think that question should be put elsewhere.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether communal ratio rules are being observed in case of appointments in this Department?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister please elucidate the answer where he has said that the Corporation should first put its own house in order?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I think Mr. Ghose understands perfectly well what I meant by that expression.

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of the employees as enumerated here are Muslims in each of the grades?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether similar anti-malarial drives are contemplated in other districts of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, not similar, but we do contemplate anti-malarial drive for the Province of Bengal.

Mr. PROVAS CHANDRA LAHIRI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether after this anti-malarial drive mosquitoes have become less in Calcutta of late or more?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes; the number of mosquitoes did decrease after the drive.

Mr. MUHAMMAD RAFIQUE: Did the mosquitoes decrease in Calcutta in proportion to the increase in population in Calcutta? (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I think a Commission will have to be appointed to go into that question (Renewed laughter).

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: With reference to question (*c*), where it is stated "special treatment of the city at the cost of rural rate-payers" to which no answer has been given, according to my understanding the spirit is that the rural population has not been neglected in this respect. That is the spirit as I understand. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is a scheme for the rural areas?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir. I have already answered to that question and I may state what I have said several times before that this Government has a definite rural bias.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next question.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not got any opportunity to put any supplementary question.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have discussed this question, Mr. Stark, for 15 minutes. Next question.

Mortality due to epidemic diseases in some places of Rajshahi district and measures to prevent them.

***38. Mr. MADAR BUX:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Medical Department be pleased to state how many health centres and charitable dispensaries are there in the district of Rajshahi?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of persons who died of cholera and smallpox in 1944 and 1945 within the police-station of Baghmara, Malda, Mohanpur, Atrai, Singra and Gurudaspur and the measure taken by the Government to fight these epidemics?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what immediate measures he proposes to adopt for preventing repetitions of the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: (*a*) There are 24 health centres and 56 charitable dispensaries in the district.

(*b*) A statement is placed on the Table showing the mortality figures during 1944 and 1945 from cholera and smallpox in the thanas mentioned.

Eight Government Sanitary Assistants and 4 mobile medical units organised by Government have been working in the district since December, 1943, in co-operation with the health staff of the District Board.

(*c*) In addition to the staff mentioned above 40 Government health assistants were sent to the district in September, 1946, and are still working there. A Subdivisional Health Officer has also been posted to the district. The services of the entire staff will be retained as long as considered necessary.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (b) of starred question No. 38, showing deaths from cholera and smallpox for the years 1944 and 1945 in certain thanas of Rajshahi district.

Names of thanas.	1944.		1945.	
	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Cholera.	Small-pox.
Mohanpur	18	Nil	40	9
Bagmara	57	99	204	188
Singra	50	126	127	312
Gurudaspur	64	58	82	36
Atrai	75	83	32	116
Manda	49	28	22	283

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether cholera and smallpox are preventible diseases?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: That is, of course, a matter of technical opinion. I think that they are preventible diseases.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain though these two diseases are preventible,—and being a doctor I do say they are preventible diseases—why the incidence of smallpox has increased in 1945, compared to 1944 figures in these thanas of Rajshahi?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid, I cannot state the reason why there has been increase in that particular area, but I might tell the honourable member that the figures for 1945, were very encouraging and have been the best so far as the last 20 years are concerned.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: The incidence shows very encouraging from the point of view of mortality and not from the point of view of life saved. Will the Hon'ble Minister please explain why the incidence has increased in 1945, compared to 1944?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: When I said the figures were encouraging, I was referring to 1946. As a matter of fact, I wanted to reserve that information to the House till I made the Budget speech. I may tell the House that the figures of mortality and the incidence of diseases in the year 1946, have been the best so far as Bengal is concerned from the year 1922.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the duteis and functions of the Subdivisional Health Officer?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: His duty is to look after the public health of the subdivision.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Is it one of the reasons why this period has been the best year according to the Hon'ble Minister that those who might have succumbed to these diseases perished in the last famine?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: After 1943, we have two years 1944 and 1945, and I am speaking of 1946 which means three years after 1943.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which agency collects mortality figures due to epidemic in the mufassal areas?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: There are different agencies for recording of deaths and births. The primary duty is of the Union Board which is under the direct supervision of the public health staff.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he received any complaint from people that mortality figures are not being kept exactly by the chaukidars?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, there used to be a complaint and after that Government have changed the system so as to ensure greater accuracy of those figures.

Mr. PROVAS CHANDRA LAHIRI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is trying to ascertain the reasons for the sudden flare-up in the death roll in 1945?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The matter was gone into by the public health staff. I am afraid, I cannot give the reasons why there were more deaths from those two diseases.

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether communal ratio rules were observed in the matter of appointments of these officers?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Appointment to what?

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Appointments of these officers to the Public Health Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: So far as appointments the Public Health Department of Government are concerned, I can state that every effort is made to see that communal ratio rules are maintained—and will be maintained.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that the Subdivisional Health Officer only sent a report to the Government, but did not do anything to prevent the diseases in the mufassil?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: On the contrary, they are hard-worked and they have to go on tours in the subdivision where they are posted to supervise the work of mobile medical units and to supervise the work of the Inspectors and the Health assistants and the Health staff of the district board. They have to keep in touch with the District Health Officer, who is an officer of the district board.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the communal ratio is maintained in the mortality figure also? (Laughter).

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I think honourable member knows about it more than I do.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether chowkidars are advised by the Government agencies to suppress the figures of mortality from epidemic diseases like cholera and small-pox?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The answer is in the negative.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that action was taken against one Chandra Sekhar Sinha, in Bankura, because he reported cases of deaths from starvation and cholera?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am not an Encyclopaedia and so I cannot give the minutest details.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: In view of the fact revealed in the statement by the Hon'ble Minister that death rate from small-pox has increased ten times in the thana of Manda, does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of instituting an enquiry into this matter and consider the desirability of transferring the officer in charge of the Health Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The primary duty regarding the public health activities in the district rests with the district board and Government supplements the work of the district board, and Government cannot take charge of any responsibility regarding the transfer of the staff of one district board to another district board. I hope the honourable member realises the fact that the primary responsility rests with the officers of the district board and in case they are not capable of coping with the situation, Government gives assistance to the district board by lending some of the Government officers and posting them as Subdivisional Health Officers along with a batch of sanitary assistants and sanitary inspectors.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Present Officer in charge of Datan police-station, Midnapore.

11. Mr. SERAJUDDIN AHAMMAD: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware of any acts of the present Officer in charge of Datan police-station, Midnapore, prejudicial to the public interest?

(*b*) Is it a fact that several petitions were sent against him to the Superintendent of Police, Midnapore, both by Hindus and Muslims?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action has been taken in the matter?

(*d*) If no action has been taken, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the said officer has been posted to the said police-station for over 3 years?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*e*) Yes.

(*c*) Enquiries were made and he was found not at fault.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the charges against the officer mentioned in (*a*)?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who was the gentleman, who made enquiries?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Mr. Pollard.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Was the enquiry public or private?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: The enquiry was made by the Superintendent of Police.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Were those who made the petition given the chances of making a statement to the enquiring court?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Yes, Sir.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Who are the gentlemen that made the petition?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I ask for notice.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if this officer has been promoted since?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I am not aware.

Strand Road within Pabna Municipality.

12. Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) if the Commissioners of the Pabna Municipality have repeatedly approached the Government with requests for making due provision for maintenance of a small portion of the tar-macadamised Strand Road running within the municipal area;

(*ii*) if he is aware that due to paucity of funds it is impossible for the Pabna Municipality to bear the heavy annual cost of repair and maintenance of that road; and

(*iii*) if his Department has received any representation from the Chairman, Pabna Municipality, dated the 9th March, 1946, embodying three alternative suggestions of the Municipality for Government consideration so as to accord relief to the Municipality—

(1) by getting the Communications and Works Department of the Government to undertake the periodical repairs of the Municipal Strand Road, subject to the payment of one-third of the cost by the Municipality, or

(2) by sanctioning the payment of an annual subsidy of Rs.2,000 out of the provincial revenue, or

(3) by making a special grant of that amount out of the Motor Vehicles Tax Fund?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he proposes to accept any of those three suggestions referred to in (*a*) (*iii*)?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: (*a*) (*i*) The Pabna Municipality has repeatedly requested Government in Works and Buildings Department to take over this Municipal road.

(*ii*) Government is not satisfied that the Municipality is unable to bear the cost of maintenance of this Municipal road.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*b*) Government is not prepared to accept any of these three proposals because the maintenance of this purely Municipal road is a concern of the Pabna Municipality.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that the municipality of Pabna is unable to maintain the Pabna Strand Road running within the Pabna Municipality?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: That is a matter which rests with the Pabna Municipality.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, how many municipal roads are maintained by the Government?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I ask for notice.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the municipality of Pabna in their petition, dated 9th March, stated that they were ready and capable to bear the cost of Rs. 500 only for the maintenance of that road?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Yes, but Government considered that Government were unable to bear the cost of maintenance of the municipal road.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: With reference to answer (*b*), is the Hon'ble Minister aware that apart from the municipal portion, the Strand Road is already maintained by the Government?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: May be so.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Then what is the objection on the part of the Government to maintain only a small portion of that road which will cost very little?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Because that portion of the road runs from Iswardi to Pabna.

Supply of quinine to districts of Bengal.

13. Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health (Medical) Department aware—

(*i*) that the malaria in an epidemic form has broken out in different areas in the district of Tippera; and

(*ii*) that the quinine is not available in the rural as well as the urban areas of the district?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what quantity of quinine has been supplied to the Government, district and subdivisional hospitals in the year 1945 as well as in the months of January, February, March, April, May, June, 1946;

(*ii*) whether the District Board has been supplied with any quantity of quinine during the above period; if so, what is the quantity;

(*iii*) what quantity in the average had been supplied in each year in the years 1937 to 1945;

(*iv*) what was the stock of quinine of the Government of Bengal in the year 1945; and

(*v*) what quantity had been supplied to different districts of Bengal out of that stock?

(*c*) Do the Government consider the desirability of making arrangements for reaching quinine to all the areas of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: (*a*) (*i*) Compared to previous two years the incidence of malaria during the current year appears to be low. Comparative statements A and B of morbidity and mortality figures are placed on the Table.

(*ii*) No such report has been received in the Directorate of Health.

(*b*) (*i*) A statement marked C is placed on the Table.

(*ii*) A statement giving the relevant information and marked D is placed on the Table.

(*iii*) During the year 1943-44, 1,495 lbs. of quinine and during the year 1944-45, 3,190 lbs. of quinine, 2,190 lbs. of cinchona and 15,315,000 tablets of mepacrine were supplied to the Tippera district. Prior to that the annual allotments were made to the District Board and to the Civil Surgeon in terms of money, average annual allotment being Rs.9,933.

(*iv*) 50,000 lbs. of quinine, 40,000 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge and 344 million tablets of mepacrine hydrochlor were allotted to Bengal during 1945-46 by the Central Government.

(*v*) Statement E which contains the information is laid on the Table.

(*c*) Necessary arrangements have already been made.

Statement A referred to in reply to clause (a) (i) of unstarred question No. 13, showing malaria cases treated in hospitals and dispensaries in the district of Tippera, during the years 1944, 1945 and 1946, up to date.

Years.		January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.
1944	..	61,588	42,220	37,354	45,390	52,994	33,716
1945	..	37,899	29,171	25,672	23,200	27,969	33,080
1946	..	18,855	14,840	18,979	22,198	28,273	..

Years.		July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
1944	..	52,896	55,776	56,532	65,627	81,990	64,728
1945	..	41,756	37,826	30,438	25,382	24,220	20,182
1946	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Statement B referred to in reply to clause (a) (i) of unstarred question No. 13, showing deaths from malaria, month by month, for the years 1944 to 1946 of Tippera.

Years.		January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.
1944	..	9,066	6,710	4,152	3,867	3,726	3,019	3,464
1945	..	3,091	2,876	2,586	1,995	2,053	1,708	1,910
1946	..	1,061	776	919	610	562	..	..

Years.		August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Annual.
1944	..	3,129	2,593	3,032	4,226	4,802	51,786
1945	..	1,700	1,580	1,916	1,714	1,744	24,873
1946	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Statement C referred to in reply to clause (b) (i) of unstarred question No. 13, showing anti-malaria drugs supplied to the Government District and Subdivisional Hospitals from the District Rationing Store Committee during the year 1945.

Quinine.	Quinine Ampoules.	Cinchona.	Mepacrine Tablets.	Remarks.
17 lbs.	24 boxes.	20 lbs.	136,000	

Above statement from January to June, 1946.

Quinine.	Quinine Ampoules.	Cinchona Febrifuge powder.	Mepacrine Tablets.	Remarks.
14 lbs.	90 boxes.	16 lbs.	75,000	

Statement D referred to in reply to clause (b) (ii) of unstarred question No. 13, showing the quinine and other anti-malaria drugs supplied to the District Board of Tippera, during the calander year 1945 as well as in the months from January to June, 1946.

(For the year 1945.)

	Quinine Sulph.	Quinine Ampoules.	Cinchona Febrifuge.	Mepacrine Tablets.	Remarks.
On payment ..	50 lbs.	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Free ..	242 lbs.	Nil	152 lbs.	2,486,000 tablets.	

(For the months from January to June, 1946.)

On payment ..	56 lbs.	Nil	56 lbs.	Nil
Free ..	60 lbs.	Nil	100 lbs.	1,180,000 tablets.

Statement E referred to in reply to clause (b) (v) of unstarred question No. 13, showing quinine and mepacrine issued to the different districts of Bengal, during the year 1945-46.

Names of districts.	Quinine.	Cinchona Febrifuge.	Mepacrine.	Remarks.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	No. of tablets.	
Burdwan ..	510	200	6,000,000	
Birbhum ..	1,225	..	4,500,000	
Bankura ..	545	..	1,100,000	
Midnapore ..	540	220	4,200,000	
Hooghly ..	450	115	2,725,000	
Howrah ..	375	130	800,000	
24-Parganas ..	1,950	850	8,700,000	
Nadia ..	1,300	620	7,000,000	
Murshidabad ..	880	207	3,300,000	
Jessore ..	390	205	3,100,000	
Khulna ..	570	345	2,000,000	
Rajshahi ..	250	..	1,800,000	
Dinajpur ..	755	100	1,200,000	
Jalpaiguri ..	330	125	50,000	
Rangpur ..	650	380	4,000,000	
Bogra ..	551	150	1,350,000	
Pabna ..	465	100	2,500,000	
Malda ..	135	..	300,000	
Darjeeling ..	..	..	1,000,000	
Dacca ..	1,400	500	6,000,000	
Mymensingh ..	1,200	1,300	21,100,000	
Faridpur ..	100	25	3,000,000	
Bakarganj ..	1,375	450	4,500,000	
Chittagong ..	1,135	325	5,800,000	
Noakhali ..	130	140	1,250,000	
Tippera ..	400	300	2,000,000	
Chittagong Hill Tracts ..	..	10	182,000	

Mr. PROVAS CHANDRA LAHIRI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for such niggardly supply of quinine in the district of Rajshahi, which is one of the most prominently noted districts for malaria in Bengal?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I ask for notice.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the nature of the arrangements that have already been made?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: That has been clearly stated in the statement appended to the answer.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: No, the nature of the arrangement is not stated there. It is only stated that so much was given. But the question is, "Do the Government consider the desirability of making arrangements for reaching quinine to all the areas of Bengal?" The answer is, "Necessary arrangements have already been made." Now my question is, what is the arrangement that has been made?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Quinine is distributed to all the Civil Surgeons according to the requisition made by them.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has got any information from sources other than the Directorate of Health that quinine is not available in the mufassil?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Such information was given, but Government supply of quinine is now being made available to all Civil Surgeons, and quinine is being sent for distribution in those areas.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that thousands of people approached them and told them that quinine was not available?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Since then Government have made arrangements for distribution of more quinine in the rural areas.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that an honourable member of this House sent a letter to the Minister-in-charge, reporting that there was no stock of quinine in the A. G. Hospital at Tantipara in Birbhum for a month and a half?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Yes. But necessary steps have been taken so that quinine might be sent there.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government is aware that quinine is available in black market in rural areas?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: We have heard of such reports, but actually we do not know of any specific cases as far as black market is concerned.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the present relationship between supply and demand of quinine in Bengal?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I ask for notice.

Mr. JASIMUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what does he mean by the figure 61,588 given in January, 1944? Is it in respect of money or in respect of weight of quinine?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: The statement is showing malaria cases treated in hospitals and dispensaries in the district of Tippera.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state the price of a pound of raw quinine and the price of quinine ampule?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I am not a doctor, so I want notice.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Government is charging exorbitant price for quinine ampule?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: We have got no such information.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that particularly this year malarial mortality is the heaviest in Birbhum in the Burdwan Division?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: There is no such information as yet in the hand of the Government.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state——

Mr. MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: On a point of order. Is an honourable member entitled to address the Parliamentary Secretary when he replies to questions as Parliamentary Secretary?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: On a point of order. Should I call him Hon'ble Minister or Deputy Minister or what?

Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that when Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries go on tour in the mofussal, even they do not get quinine and sometimes they have got to use Mepacrine as a substitute?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I am afraid, I have got no such information.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Not to speak of quinine, is the Hon'ble Minister aware that at the A. G. Hospital in Tantipara in the district of Birbhum, there was no supply of Castor Oil, Sodi Bicarb, Mag. Sulph. and such other medicines in the months of November and December and complaints were made to this effect by one honourable member of this House?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: As far as this matter is concerned, Government is not aware of that.

Scheduled Caste dealers of Narail subdivision.

14. Mr. BEJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the communal ratio for the Scheduled Castes has been observed in appointing dealers and sub-dealers in the Narail subdivision; and

(*b*) if not, the reason thereof?

MINISTER in charge of the CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Gofran): (*a*) Government have fixed no definite ratio for Scheduled Caste dealers. Attempts are, however, made to give fair representation to the Scheduled Castes provided dealers belonging to the

community with necessary business experience and financial stability are available. In the Narail subdivision the proportion of Scheduled Caste dealers is as follows—

	Per cent.
Kerosene, sugar, etc.—	
Wholesalers	... 5½
Retailers	... 9½
Textiles—	
Wholesalers	... Nil.
Retailers	... 10

(*b*) Larger representation could not be given to the Scheduled Castes because of the dearth of Scheduled Caste dealers with the necessary business experience and financial resources. Though offered dealerships some could not accept because they did not have sufficient funds.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is the policy of the Government in making appointments of dealers and sub-dealers, whatever communities they may belong to, always to insist upon business experience?

(No answer was forthcoming, because of the absence of the Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary of the Department.)

This is very unfair that no Hon'ble Minister or Parliamentary Secretary is present here. This should not be allowed.

Mr. K. NASARULLAH: This is the first time that the Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary of the Civil Supplies Department are both absent. So the question may be held over.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: On a point of information. We were hearing here that the Civil Supplies Department was going to be liquidated. Has it been liquidated?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a point of information.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Rice may be controlled, but questions should not be controlled like this.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Is it held over?

Mr. MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: The question may kindly be held over.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ghose, this question is held over.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: It may be held over, but I want to make a submission on this point. Government have appointed so many Parliamentary Secretaries and so much money is being spent on them. It is, but meet and fair that one of them should be present, if not the Hon'ble Minister, to reply to questions that are tabled before the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think, it is not fair that both of them should remain absent from the House, when questions of that department are takne up, but it has been pointed out that this is the first omission on the part of the Hon'ble Minister. I would like to hold over the question.

Next question.

Jute restriction operations in Contai subdivision.

15. Mr. PRAMATHANATH BANDOPADHAYA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that Contai subdivision in Midnapore district is not a jute-growing subdivision like those of East and North Bengal;

(*ii*) that people of Contai subdivision generally grow jute on high lands and not on paddy lands; and

(*iii*) that the jute grown there is barely sufficient to meet local demands?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what was the average value of total export of jute from Contai last year; and

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that introduction of jute restriction operations has affected adversely the poor cultivators?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of discontinuing jute restriction operation in Contai subdivision?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Hossain): (*a*)(*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*iii*) There is no reason to think that there has been any difficulty in meeting the local demands.

(*b*) (*i*) No dependable data as to the value of total export of jute from Contai last year is available. It appears there was no large scale export but small quantities were exported by Farias.

(*ii*) No.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANDOPADHAYA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি যে পাট নিয়ন্ত্রণী ব্যাপার খাদ্য শস্য বাড়ানো ছাড়া আর অন্য কোন উদ্দেশ্য আছে কি ?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I think certainly there was. The idea was to increase the price of jute.

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANDOPADHAYA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় স্বীকার করেছেন যে কাঁথি সবডিভিসনে পাট বেশী হয় না, সুতরাং সেখানে jute restriction করলে, প্রজাদের খুব অসুবিধা হবে—এটা তিনি স্বীকার করেন কি না ?

Mr. A. ABDUL KARIM: No, because, even after the Jute Restriction Scheme was enforced the cultivators did not grow jute in the land that was set apart for that.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that due to saline flood in the year 1942, jute could not be grown there?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have no information.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the number of Jute Restriction Officers in Contai?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I cannot say off-hand.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give an approximate idea of the total expenditure on jute in that subdivision?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I am sorry, I cannot give without notice.

SHORT NOTICE

STARRED QUESTION

(to which oral answer was given)

Hunger-strike by some under-trial prisoners in Krishnagar Jail.

***38A.** (Short Notice). **Mr. SATISH CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some under-trial prisoners at Krishnagar (Nadia), Jail have gone on hunger-strike?

(*b*) Is it a fact that respectable men like Dr. Purna Chandra Paramanik, M.B., Mr. Haridas De, Mr. Kanailal Paul and Mr. Jaleswar Sen have been put into class III Prisoners' grade and as a protest of that and for other sorts of ill-treatment these gentlemen have been compelled to start hunger-strike?

(*c*) Does the Government contemplate classifying the above named prisoners and others who by their education and social position deserve classification?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the facts which led them to resort to hunger-strike?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlur Rahman): (*a*) Four under-trial prisoners started hunger-strike on the 1st February, 1947. By the afternoon of the 8th February, 1947, all of them gave it up one after another.

(*b*) The four under-trial prisoners have been classified as Division II under-trial. They resorted to hunger-strike as a protest against this classification. Only Mr. Kanailal Pal complained of maltreatment in addition.

(*c*) Orders have issued classifying Mr. Kanailal Pal as Division I under-trial. The District Magistrate has been asked to report on the rest.

(*d*) The four under-trial prisoners were classified as Division I under-trials by the trying Magistrate without the approval of the District Magistrate as required under the Rules. They were reduced to Division II under the orders of the District Magistrate. This was the ground for the hunger-strike.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why a difference has been made between Mr. Kanailal Pal and Dr. Purna Chandra Paramanik, M.B., and Mr. Haridas De, who is the Secretary of the Santipur Committee and also of the Peace Committee, and Mr. Jaleswar Sen? Why they have not been ordered to be put in Division I?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: On a former occasion, Mr. Kanailal Pal was treated as Division I prisoner, so no further enquiry was necessary in regard to him. But in regard to others we have called for further reports from the District Magistrate.

Mr. SATISH CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the nature of maltreatment that Kanailal Pal complained of?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: His allegation was torture by some Jail officer.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any action has been taken on the report of allegation of torture?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: An enquiry was made and the allegation was found to be false.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. Kanailal Pal was put in a solitary cell?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: No, it is not a fact.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Are all these prisoners political prisoners?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: No. They are prisoners in connection with communal riot.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Mr. Haridas De, Secretary, Santipur Peace Committee and Secretary, Santipur Congress Committee, protested against the policy of the District Magistrate in the matter of distribution of yarn to weavers and in the matter of not allowing them to sell their own cloth though it was not rationed?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: It arises in this way. He protested and for that a case has been instituted against him by the District Magistrate and he is made to rot in jail and he has not been given bail. Mr. Haridas De is a member of the Peace Committee; he is a respectable man; he was in Division I. The District Magistrate went there and degraded him to Division II. Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the District Magistrate has got a relation in Calcutta to whom cloth is sent regularly? Sir, these are very pertinent questions. There was a great sensation. Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Nadia is the only district where the District Magistrate has got a quota as Magistrate's reserve for distribution of cloth?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Sir, it is not a question but a statement.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that under-trial Division II, treatment is the same kind of treatment as accorded to convicted prisoners placed in Division III?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Yes.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: In view of the answer which he has just given, that Division III treatment as meted out to convicted prisoners is meted out to under-trial prisoners who have not been convicted of any offence, in view of that answer, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is considering the desirability of abolishing under-trial Division II, altogether and placing under-trial prisoners in a class of treatment where they may get all the reasonable fair treatment that an under-trial prisoner should deserve?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: It will receive the consideration of Government.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: What are the basic rules for classification?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Status and mode of living of the prisoner.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleaesd to state if status and position in society are the criteria, why an M.B. was put in Division II, which means practically Division III convicted prisoner?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I cannot give details unless we have got further reports from the District Magistrate.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that these prisoners took resort to hunger-strike as a protest, because they were compelled to observe "Sarkar Salam" in the jail?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: No.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of issuing forthwith an order for putting these respectable persons in Division I?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Government is not prepared to revise its decision unless it gets further reports from the Collector.

Mr. NAWAJESH AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the criteria for classification of under-trial prisoners?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I have already said that status and mode of living.

Mr. NAWAJESH AHMED: What are the educational qualifications and social position of Jaleswar Sen, Kanailal Paul and Haridas De?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I cannot say anything before we get further reports from the Collector.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that these prisoners have got much more qualification than many members present here?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether a doctor holding an M.B. degree is not entitled to be classified as Division I prisoner?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: M.B. qualification is a strong point.

Mr. RAMHARI ROY: With reference to answer (*d*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the District Magistrate disapproved of the classification by the trying Court?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: According to the Jail Rules trying Magistrates must classify prisoners with the approval of the District Magistrate.

Mr. RAMHARI ROY: I want to know the grounds of disapproval.

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: We have called for the grounds from the District Magistrate.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Who was the District Magistrate there?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I do not know the name.

Post of Director of Industries, Bengal.

*39. **Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA GHOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many times during 1945 were applications invited by public advertisement by the Public Service Commission to fill up the post of Director of Industries, Bengal;

(*b*) the reasons why such applications were invited;

(*c*) whether the Public Service Commission had made any recommendations;

(*d*) if so, what;

(*e*) whether the recommendations of the Public Service Commission were accepted; and

(*f*) if not, why not?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE, LABOUR and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed): (*a*) The post was advertised twice by the Public Service Commission; a search was also made to find a suitable man overseas.

(*b*) In order to fill the vacancy in the post caused by the deputation of the permanent Director of Industries to the Supply Directorate of the Central Government.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The Commission recommended one Mr. K. C. Wadia, who was then holding the post of Director of Miscellaneous Stores in the Directorate-General of Supply, under the Central Government, for appointment.

(*e*) and (*f*) While the Commission's recommendation was under consideration, the permanent Director, on being released by the Central Government, reverted to his substantive post.

Mr. MUHAMMAD RUKNUDDIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why Dr. Ali Karim resigned his post?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: It was his own choice.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when it was that the Public Service Commission had sent in their recommendations?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I am sorry, I cannot tell you the exact date. It was in 1945.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the permanent incumbent reverted to his substantive post?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I think very recently.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to why nearly two years intervened between the time when the Public Service Commission had sent in recommendations and the time when the permanent Director reverted to his post, but the recommendation of the Public Service Commission was not given effect to?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: There was section 93 Government running at the time. When we took up office, we made a search afterwards for a suitable man. We found that Mr. Wadia was only in charge of miscellaneous duties outside. He was not a fit person for a big post like this. So we did not like him. In the mean time the permanent Director came back from the Central Government.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Acting Director of Industries was a candidate for the post?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Yes.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there has been a Press propaganda to the effect that the officiating Director of Industries was the best candidate who could have been selected?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I disallow that question.

Khan Bahadur SYED MUHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Dr. Ali Karim was appointed on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: It is not necessary to consult the Public Service Commission for officiating appointment.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to answer (*a*), that a search was also made to find a suitable man overseas, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in which countries overseas a search was made?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: All possible countries.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that one of the Directors of the Industries Department was responsible for the loss incurred by Government in connection with the scheme of construction of boats and whether the Hon'ble the Finance Minister promised to take steps in the matter, and if so, what steps have since been taken?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: If you want an answer to this question you should address the question to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Sir, I am now putting the question in the proper form. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any of the gentlemen just named were responsible for the loss incurred by Government in connection with boat construction? I mean Mr. S. C. Mitter and Dr. Ali Karim.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I do not know that, but so far as Mr. Mitter is concerned, he went over to the Central Government. Possibly he had some connection with boat construction, but I cannot tell you what really did happen.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Was this question of taking steps against Mr. Mitter raised when he reverted to his original post?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: The Hon'ble the Finance Minister promised on the floor of this House, that an enquiry would be made into the bungling of boat construction.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the statement made in connection with boat construction by the Hon'ble Minister has been challenged about its veracity and whetehr that requires the careful consideration by Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: The veracity of that statement has never been challenged.

Mr. MD. KHUDA BUKSH: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly state whether it is the policy of Government to advertise for applications of candidates and simultaneously search for candidates elsewhere?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: There was an advertisement and a search was made overseas.

Cost of living and wages of jute mill labourers.

*40. **Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Labour Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that the cost of living of average labourers in Bengal has as compared with pre-war conditions risen by about 300 per cent.;

(*ii*) whether there has been any increase in the wage of the labourers of jute mills of Bengal after the break out of the second World War;

(*iii*) if so, how many times and each time by what per cent.;

(*iv*) what proportion the present income of the workers of jute mills of Bengal bears to the pre-war income; and

(*v*) whether the proportion corresponds with the relationship between the pre-war and post-war cost of living?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*v*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state definite figures to justify such statement?

(*c*) If not, what steps does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take with a view to make the two tally?

(When the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed rose to answer.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is there any objection to the answer being taken as read and then to put supplementary questions? As only five minutes are left, it would enable more supplementary questions to be put.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: In that case, Sir, the question may be held over.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, it has been the practice that the answer is read out and this should be done.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) (*i*) According to the working class cost of living index of the Calcutta area (unpublished) prepared in Labour Commissioner's office, the index for June, 1946, was 268.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) On the 6th November, 1939, an increase of 10 per cent. on basic wages. From June, 1941, an amenity allowance of annas 4 per week. From 8th May, 1942, the amenity allowance was increased to annas 12 per week. From 17th August, 1942, the amenity allowance was increased to Re.1 per week. From the 14th December, 1942, the amenity allowance was increased to Rs.1-4 per week. On the 9th December, 1944, the amenity allowance was increased to Rs.2 per week. From April, 1946, all mills began to implement a 15 per cent. increase in wages of mill and factory labour. Food concession amounts to Re.1-1 per week now.

(*iv*) An increase of 86 per cent. taking into account all allowances in cash and kind.

(*v*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) The general policy of Government has been to ensure that so far workers in the lower wage groups are concerned, they are fully compensated for the increased cost of living. An enquiry was started sometime ago by the Labour Commissioner, Mr. Hughes, into conditions of work of presses employed in the Jute industry. The enquiry was unfortunately not completed. Government propose to resume the enquiry at an early date, and trust that action will be taken to secure for these workers a reasonable wage.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that after June, 1946, when the cost of living index of the Calcutta area was 268, the cost of living index has greatly increased, and, if so, what is the present cost of living index?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I find that your point is that, compared with pre-war conditions, the rise is 300 per cent., but I have stated that the increase is 86 per cent.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the present cost of living as compared to that for 1939, has increased by 300 to 400 per cent.?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Quite likely.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: With reference to the answer to (*b*) and (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether proper action has been taken with a view to ensuring the lower grade workers to be fully compensated?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: As I have already told you, we propose to resume the enquiry again. Of course, we do not know whether the Government of India order will in the mean time reach us.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the basic wage in 1939 and what is the total emolument of a jute worker just at the present time?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I am sorry, I cannot say off-hand.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: With regard to answer (*b*) and (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the nature of the enquiry, what were the points of reference and when was the enquiry made?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I cannot say off-hand.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the rise in wages has kept pace with the rise in the rate of profit of the jute mill owners during this period?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I cannot tell you the exact position, because I cannot calculate the profits earned.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to undertake an enquiry into the rate of rise in profit of the jute mill owners and thereby secure that rise in wages may be made to tally with cost in the index of prices?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I can assure the honourable member that an enquiry will be made—a thorough enquiry will be made—and living wage will be assured to the workers.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the enquiry will be completed and why has not been completed so long?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I can assure you, it will be instituted very soon.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who will conduct the enquiry—whether by an individual or a committee will be formed?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I think a committee will be set up for the purpose.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: The question may be held over.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. There has been sufficient discussion.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, it affects 93, jute mills and about 3 lakhs of workers. So, it is a vital question for them.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not see much enthusiasm in putting supplementary question. It is not held over.

(The House was then adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have a submission to make. You will remember that last week, I brought to your notice that the proceedings of the last session had not yet been circulated to members and I also brought to your notice, the difficulties—I might almost say, the unreality—of having a budget discussion this session without having the report, particularly the pronouncements and statements by the Government members during the last session. I also stated that you would make arrangement and you assured us that you would look into the matter and that some arrangement would be made so that members might obtain the proceedings of the last session or alternatively the presentation of the budget might be delayed. I do not know what can be done. I would like to know what you have done in this matter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ghose, so far as your point is concerned, I told you even on that day that I was appealing to the Hon'ble Leader of the House to expedite printing of proceedings and send them to the honourable members. I, however, do not like to make any statement just now. I will make enquiry about the matter and I will make announcement later on.

As regards the point raised by Mr. Stark yesterday, about extending time for sending amendments on the Bengal Acquisition of Waste Land Bill, I am in a position to give more time to the honourable members for sending amendments up to 3 O'clock on the 17th. The Bill is likely to come up on the 20th.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Could you not make it 18th? There is another Bill on the 20th.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Stark, the Bill will be on the order paper on the 20th. The office must have two days in between the last day for amendments and the day of presentation. I do not think I can extend the time further.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Yesterday you told me, Sir, that you would hear my submission which I was about to make about the form in which questions would be admitted. In rule 26, it is stated that in asking questions it must not be asked as to the character or conduct of any person except in his official or public capacity, and a question making or implying a charge of a personal character may be disallowed. I find, Sir, a very unhappy——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Instead of taking the time of the House, would it not be possible for you to meet me in my chamber? I would also be benefited by your advice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Yes, I shall be glad to do so.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In consultation with Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha, I have decided that all the resolutions should be moved first and then a general discussion will follow. Then the resolutions will be put to vote separately.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Sir, before proceeding, I would invite your attention to rule 92 to fix a time-limit for discussion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have fixed the time-limit for discussion. Two days have been allotted—in other words, four hours.

Resolutions disapproving the Ordinances promulgated by the Governor of Bengal, under section 88(1) of the Government of India Act, 1935.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the resolutions which stand in my name.

I beg to move that this Assembly disapproves the Bengal Jute Mills (Temporary Provisions) Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. XI of 1946), as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(*1*) of the Government of India Act, 1935.

I also beg to move that this Assembly disapproves the Bengal Consumer Goods Control Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. VII of 1946), as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(*1*) of the Government of India Act, 1935.

I also move that this Assembly disapproves the Noakhali and Tippera Emergency Harvesting Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. IX of 1946), as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(*1*) of the Government of India Act, 1935.

I beg to move that this Assembly disapproves the Calcutta Rent Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. V of 1946), as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(*1*) of the Government of India Act, 1935.

I move that this Assembly disapproves the Bengal Molasses Control Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. III of 1946) as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(*1*) of the Government of India Act, 1935.

I move that this Assembly disapproves the Dacca Area Security Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. VIII of 1946) as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(*1*) of the Government of India Act, 1935.

I, Sir, move that this Assembly disapproves the Bengal Drugs Control Continuance Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. IV of 1946), as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(*1*) of the Government of India Act, 1935.

I move that this Assembly disapproves the Noakhali and Tippera Area Security Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. X of 1946), as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(*1*) of the Government of India Act, 1935.

I move that this Assembly disapproves the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1947 (Bengal Ordinance No. I of 1947), as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(*1*) of the Government of India Act, 1935.

I move that this Assembly disapproves the Bengal Special Powers Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. VI of 1946), as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(*1*) of the Government of India Act, 1935.

I move that this Assembly disapproves the Bengal Special Powers (Amendment) Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. XII of 1946), as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(*1*) of the Government of India Act, 1935.

I move that this Assembly disapproves the Bengal Special Powers (Amendment) Ordinance, 1947 (Bengal Ordinance No. II of 1947), as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(*1*) of the Government of India Act, 1935.

I move that this Assembly disapproves the Bengal Civic Guards and Collective Fines Continuance Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. II of 1946), as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(*1*) of the Government of India Act, 1935.

I move that this Assembly disapproves the Bengal Civil Pioneer Force Ordinance, 1947 (Bengal Ordinance No. III of 1947), as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(*1*) of the Government of India Act, 1935.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, I want to record my very emphatic protest against the way in which the Government of Bengal are trying to foist upon us an "Ordinance *Raj*" of which we had a taste during those dark days of Anderson regime. It seems, Sir, the Ministry is intent upon doing away with the legitimate rights of this Legislature and having an Ordinance *Raj* in this Province, gagging the people and taking away the legitimate rights of the people of this Province and curtailing their civil liberties. The intention of the present Ministry is to circumvent the rights of the legislature and the rights of the people which accrue from the Government of India Act, 1935. I submit, Sir, that the Ordinances that have been brought forward are entirely *mala fide* and entirely in contravention of the spirit of the constitution under which we are functioning today. As a token of this *mala fide*, I would refer to one instance only. The last Ordinance, namely, the Bengal Civil Pioneer Force Ordinance has been promulgated only on the 2nd of February, 1947, when the Ministry knew it well that the House is going to meet from the next day, that the Governor was pleased to summon the House by a written notification.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: On a point of order, Sir. There was no resolution of the Civil Pioneer Force before the House.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Of couse, it has been moved. Then, Sir, I submit that this Ordinance has been promulgated not under section 89 of the Government of India Act, where the Governor in his discretion can issue such Ordinance, but the Ordinance has been issued under section 88 of the Government of India Act, where the Governor is bound to take the advice of the Ministry, because the words used there are "individual judgment" which mean that he may or may not accept the advice tendered by the Ministry, but, Sir, he must at least take the advice of his Ministry. This is, Sir, really speaking, not the Governor's Ordinance, but the Ministerial Ordinance, and I submit that it is the intention of the Ministry to circumvent the legislature, to gag this House and to have the country ruled by a law which, I submit, is no law at all, which is the arbitrary act of the executive and which has no consent of this House. That is, Sir, the *mala fide*, which I beg your attention to be drawn to.

Next, Sir, I would refer you to the Ordinances themselves. The Ordinances might be broadly classified into two categories. One category consists of certain *muris* and the other category consists of certain *michries*. I say, Sir, having regard to the composition of the present Cabinet itself, that it is no wonder that they are consistently following the principle of mixing up *muris* with *michries* in all their acts. Well, Sir, certain groups of Ordinances have been promulgated with the ostensible object of controlling prices and of issuing certain licences and permits and so on. I might say, Sir, that such Ordinances as the Bengal Consumer Goods Control Ordinance, Bengal Molasses Control Ordinance, Bengal Drugs Control Continuance Ordinance, all these Ordinances come within the first category. And secondly, there is another group of Ordinances which, as the Government has suggested, have been promulgated for maintaining peace and order, for restoring a sense of security.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Is that *muri* or *michri*?

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: That is *michrir chhuri*. Sir, before I pass on to the criticism of the second category, I would like to refer to the first category briefly. I would like to draw your attention to the Consumer Goods Control Ordinance. This Ordinance is supposed to bring paradise to the consumers by controlling certain consumer goods and regulating licences, permits and the production or manufacture of any scheduled commodities. Sir, it is well-known now in Bengal how the Civil Supplies Department entirely failed to secure the minimum necessary comforts to the people. Well, Sir, in the schedule it has been mentioned that the following consumer goods come under the control of this Ordinance, namely, bicycles and spare parts thereof, table fans and so on and so forth and it includes fountain pens, aluminium utensils, brass utensils, and copper utensils, also. I would like to put a very simple question to the Ministry. Is it not known to the Ministry through its Enforcement Branch that these utensils are not available in the market? If the Minister-in-charge of the Department is pleased to go to the Srimani Market, he will find that these things are being sold there openly in black-market on the footpath. I might mention another item—fountain pen. If a census is taken, it may possible be found— and I have a very strong reason to make this submission—that all the Government high officials will be found using Parker 51 fountain pen, but when we, the poor Opposition members go to the market, we are told "there is no fountain pen". I do not know if the Ordinance is a great respecter of persons and functions in a different manner in respect of different persons having regard to their political creed and affinity. If the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge is in a position to deny the charge—nobody will be happier than myself. Sir, the same is the position in regard to the Drug Control Ordinance. The Ordinance exists on paper and the drugs are to be found in black-markets at exorbitant prices. These Ordinances have been absolutely useless, and if there was any justification for their promulgation at the time when they were promulgated, the way in which these Ordinances have been applied has proved that this Ministry were not justified in promulgating Ordinances which could not be effectively enforced. But, Sir, my strongest objection lies not against these Ordinances which are supposed to confer benefit on the people of Bengal, but I record my most vehement protest against the way in which the Ministry is gagging the people of Bengal by usurping the powers under the Ordinances that are supposed to restore the security and peace in this Province.

Sir, I would draw your attention specially to the Bengal Special Powers Ordinance. What are the contents of this Ordinance? We find that the contents of this Ordinance are very far-reaching and are likely to cover every aspect of the political and civic life of the people. Well, Sir, it has defined prejudicial act in this way, namely, to cause disaffection among, or to prejudice, prevent or interfere with the discipline, health or training of, or the performance of their duties by public servants. So, if I may be permitted to say so, it appears from the Ordinance itself, that the only justification for promulgating this Ordinance is to correct the *Raj* now prevalent in the Government Departments and in Writers' Buildings——

Mr. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: On a point of order, Sir. He must speak in a distinct tone and not in a musical tone. (Laughter.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Secondly, Sir, in the list of prejudicial act, has been mentioned thus: Any act which is likely to render any public servant incapable of efficiently performing his duties

as such. I submit that nobody is more guilty in this respect than this Ministry itself which has been interfering with the efficient working of the Department, which has been interfering with the actions which legitimately come within the scope of the normal duties of the officers. Has it not been brought to the notice of the public that repeatedly the recommendations of officers have been turned down not on grounds of fairness or equity, but perhaps on grounds of communalism or perhaps on grounds which I do not know, and which perhaps God alone knows. Then, Sir, there is another provision which says that it is a prejudicial act to cause fear or alarm to a section of the public. If that be a prejudicial act, nobody has a greater sense of grievance than we on this side of the House against the Ministry itself on this score, because if anybody has been causing alarm it is, I submit, the Ministers who in individual capacity have been all along indulging in blood and thunder speeches often outside the province threatening the people with extermination. In this way all the civil liberties of the people have been taken away from them. They can be arrested by a Sub-Inspector without any warrant, and it is a wanton arrest without any right of appeal. Even if a person approaches the neighbourhood of a House or a public building, he is liable to be charged for contravening the provisions of this Ordinance and arrested. The other day Mr. Mohammed Ali said that the Ministers are not astrologers. I wonder how can he know the mind of others, without being an astrologer himself, so as to forecast that a certain person has certain things in his mind whenever he approaches a place and therefore must get him arrested for possible acts in contravention of the provisions of this Ordinance?

(Here the member having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have one class of Ordinances which want to take larger powers for alleged maintenance of law and order. There is another class of Ordinances which want to control the supply of commodities. With regard to the latter class, I want to tell the Hon'ble Minister that there was no necessity for controlling the drugs any more. You are aware, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that there was a Drugs Control Advisory Committee. There were eleven members of the Committee and there was a meeting of the Committee held on the 14th January, 1940, and in that meeting besides the members representing the Government all the other members unanimously held that there should not be any drug control any further, especially in view of the fact that in many other provinces like Madras drug control has been discontinued. So the resolution that was passed by the Advisory Committee that there was no necessity of controlling the drugs in view of that fact that large consignments were on the waters is still there. It was intimated by the representative of an important European firm, Mr. Leymoor, who was present at that meeting that large consignments were coming very soon. In spite of the fact that that resolution was passed so long ago, it was not given effect to, for what reasons I do not know. Sir, I say this not in a spirit of destructive criticism, but to show the way this Governments acts.

Sir, our experience of control of prices is very bitter. When the prices were controlled, the articles went underground, and business in black-market flourished. People were compelled to buy drugs at very high prices. It is for that reason, Sir, that we want to decontrol the prices of drugs. I therefore ask Government to give effect to that resolution and decontrol the prices.

Then, Sir, with regard to taking special powers for the maintenance of law and order, I wish to speak on two Ordinances, namely, the Civic Guards Ordinance and the Collective Fines Ordinance. With regard to the Civic Guards Ordinance, I do not see any necessity of maintaining

the Civic Guards. It was a war time creation as a measure of emergency. The war is now over and no emergency due to war exists at present. There is therefore absolutely no necessity of maintaining the Civic Guards. Sir, it is painful for me to say that no maintain the Civic Guards is to maintain the Muslim League National Guard.....(Cries of "No, no, certainly not" from the Government benches). I say, Sir, that Government want to maintain the Civic Guards at Government expense to utilise them as Muslim League National Guards.....

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I believe most of the Civic Guards are Hindus.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: I don't think so.

Then, Sir, with regard to the Collective Fines Ordinance, I find systematic discrimination is being made in the matter of imposition of collective fines on the respective communities. Collective fines were first imposed on the residents of Dacca, but when there were disturbances in Noakhali and Tippera, in which one party was the aggressor, and we demanded that there should be imposition of collective fines upon the Muslim inhabitants of Noakhali and Tippera, no heed was paid to our demand. Sir, that is one example of discrimination. We have seen, Sir, that collective fines were imposed on the Muslims, but were never realised from the Muslim culprits. Then there is another form of discrimination. In connection with the discrimination shown in the matter of imposition of collective fines in Dacca, we tabled an adjournment motion, but that has been disallowed. In one case, Sir, there was a murder. One Hindu was murdered and a fine of Rs. 300 was imposed. Then there was another case of stabbing resulting in slight injuries, and a collective fine of Rs. 5,000 was imposed on the Hindus. There was a case of arson in which an insignificant shed was involved, and for that a collective fine of Rs. 10,000 was imposed on the Hindus. That is the way, Sir, in which discrimination was shown by the authorities in imposing collective fines. It has been found that where there has been a necessity of imposing a collective fine, it has not been done. But elsewhere it has been done and that too very excessively. In spite of section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, being in force prohibiting processions and holding of public meetings, there was a procession and a meeting in connection with the election of President of the Bengal Provincial Muslim League. No less than several thousands of persons were reported to have congregated in the neighbourhood of the meeting crying all sorts of slogans. There was no interference of the police, no baton charge and no use of tear gas. But what did we find on the Viet Nam Day? There was a procession of students and what was done? There were tear-gassing, *lathi*-charging and firing, resulting in the death and injury of young men who had gathered to show their sympathy with the Viet Namese who were fighting so bravely against French Imperialism for their independence.

So, Sir, I think it is undesirable to arm this Government and its police with such special powers. There is another Ordinance, namely, the Special Powers Ordinance. There is a provision under section 15A of this Ordinance with regard to requisition of properties. It is a dangerous power which, I think, cannot be given to Government. During the war these were acquired under the Defence of India Rules, and now that the war is over, there is no justification for giving this power to Government under this Ordinance.

Then, Sir, as I told you, if we read the Special Power Ordinance that has been promulgated what do we find? By the Special Power Ordinance not only power has been given for requisition of buildings which has acted prejudicially, but also power has been given for prohibition of publication of news. Such dangerous things happen, Mr. Deputy

Speaker. Power of prohibition of publication of news has be given and news are censored and censored by the Government in such way that in reality it is gagged. We find occurrence took place Noakhali and Tippera on the 12th of October, the news did not rea before the 16th October. That is Special Power Ordinance. News a censored, news are gagged for this purpose. So, Sir, this Governme cannot be entrusted with such a large power, because even though the is necessity for this power they use the power to their own advantage against the real use of the power.

Then, Sir, before I take my seat, I wish to speak something with rega to the Security Ordinance.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Datta, your time is up.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Before I take my seat my su mission before you is this. No power should be given to this Gover ment, this communally minded Government which makes distinctic between person and person.

Mr. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Assembl is a creature of the Government of India Act, 1935. If that be so, the who is the Government? Under section 49 of the Government of Ind Act, the executive authority of a Province shall be exercised on behalf His Majesty by the Governor, either directly or through officers subord nate to him, but nothing in this section shall prevent the Federal or t Provincial Legislature, etc.

Under section 88 of the Government of India Act, if at any time whe the Legislature of a Province is not in session, the Governor is satisfie that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to tak immediate action, he may promulgate such Ordinances as the circumstance appear to him to require.

Sir, these Ordinances were promulgated under section 88 by th Governor. My friends, opposite, say that these Ordinances were no promulgated by the Governor, but by the Minister. What authority hav they to say this? (Laughter). Of course, the law has given th Governor authority and he is practically the ruler of this Province (Renew ed laughter). When the Assembly is not in session he can promulgat any Ordinance he likes and he does it in the interests of the Province.

Now, Sir, the next point that has been made is that there was n necessity for such an Ordinance. For good Government and for emergenc measure it is necessary to promulgate such an Act. He is perfectl entitled to do so. Now, section 88(2) says, an Ordinance promulgate under this section shall have the same force and effect as an Act of th Provincial Legislature assented to by the Governor.

Now, if my friends opposite, disapprove the Ordinance that ha already been promulgated and has been acted upon, it will be of no avai because after your disapproval you will have to send it to the Counci and if the Council agrees, then and then only from that day it will cease to have effect. Section 88 provides it will be in operation for six week only from the date of the Assembly holding its session. Ten days have already passed from the sitting of the Assembly and only four week remain. And even if you disapprove from this Assembly you will have to send it to the Council and in the Council it will take another three o four weeks. Therefore it is of no use to disapprove the Ordinance.

Another question is whether the Ordinances are in the interest of the public. You know very well that the war was in progress and ever after the war has ceased to exist and peace has been restored, still an emergency exists, because there is necessity for such provisions as were made in the Defence of India Rules, which have expired on 30th September,

1946. Therefore, in order to extend the provisions of the Defence of India Rules, it was necessary in the interest of public order that these Ordinances should be made. In the case of the other Ordinances, Sir, you know that there was disturbance in Calcutta, there was disturbance in Noakhali and there was disturbance in Tippera; and in order to meet the emergency some provision was absolutely necessary when the Assembly was not in session and so these measures were quite justified. If these measures had not been taken, I think there would have been much more trouble. For meeting this emergency, these Ordinances were rightly promulgated by the Governor of Bengal, and so I think that the resolutions disapproving the Ordinances should be rejected by the Assembly.

Mr. SATISH CHANDRA BOSE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this unwanted baby, the Calcutta Rent Ordinance (Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy: You do not mean the previous Speaker?) (laughter), the child of the Ordinance making authority, has come to the Assembly for receiving the hallmark of its recognition. We, on this side of the House, refuse to look at it, refuse to recognise it. (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Really?) Let the real progenitor—I do not know who he is—perhaps the gentleman just opposite to me—let the progenitor father, it and nurse it. (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No. Can't do that.) We do not care to have even a look at it. One going through the provisions of the Calcutta Rent Ordinance is struck by one thing. The remedies suggested are worse than the disease. The law of landlord and tenant which had been regulating the dealings of landlord and tenant for over a century has been thrown overboard, and this law has been crucified and lawlessness glorified and the vagaries of that estimable officer, the Rent Controller, have been sanctified now.

Now, look at the provisions. In the interest of tens of thousands of house owners who are men of small means and who consist mostly of widows and helpless orphans whose fathers left them the houses, part of which they occupy and the rest they have let out to tenants, the standard of rent has been raised by ten per cent., completely ignoring the fact that the prices of food and building materials have reached sky-rocketing heights.

Secondly, look at the inconvenience and harassment caused to this class of house owners. If there is a dispute regarding the rate of rent, the tenant is authorised by the Ordinance to deposit the rent in the Rent Controller's office without taking the ordinary course of sending money by money order to the landlord, thereby harassing the landlord in the shape of engaging a pleader, filing a *vakalatnama* and applying to the Court for withdrawal of the money. What should be done is that the tenant must satisfy the Rent Controller that he had sent a money order and that the money order was refused by the landlord, and then and then only should he be allowed to deposit the rent in the Rent Controller's office.

Now, Sir, there is no gainsaying the fact that the cost of living has risen 300 per cent., above the pre-war level. The cost of building materials has risen at least 400 per cent., above the pre-war level in spite of the controls. What is the poor landlord to do? The tenants of such landlords—I do not say that all of them are refractory tenants—are allowed the opportunity of sending requisitions to the landlords, that repairs have to be made within 48 hours or "we go and charge you with expenses incurred for repairs which are expected to be Rs. 600 or more". The landlords have to get building materials from the black-market. The time is very short. Then, Sir, in spite of the provision of section 12 adequate provision should be made giving the house owners protection against sub-tenants.

(At this stage the member reached his time-limit.)

In conclusion, I have to say that this unworthy piece of legislation sounds the death-knell of poorer landlords and is a charter of rights to refractory tenants.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Sinha and other gentlemen on my opposite have raised objections especially on the ground that these Ordinances are *mala fide* and the attempt on the part of the Ministry is *mala fide*. With regard to that charge against the Ministry, I think the remarks made by the honourable member, the mover of these resolutions, is not justified. As the honourable members of this House heard the other day from the Hon'ble Chief Minister that he intends subsequently to introduce every one of the Ordinances before the House, and, at that time, the House will have full opportunities to discuss every clause of those Bills covered by those Ordinances. The Ministry have also explained their position that having regard to the provision of section 88 of the Government of India Act, 1935, these Ordinances will cease to have any effect after six weeks from the commencement of re-assembly of this Assembly. That being so, the Ministry could not have any other alternative, but to adopt the course which has been adopted by the Ministry. So, the only question is whether there is *mala fides* having regard to these circumstances and also to what the Chief Minister has said, namely, that he will come afterwards with everyone of the legislative measures and that he will give full opportunities to members of this House to discuss them on merits. If after discussion the House considers that they are not necessary and the time is over, at any time, the Ministry can withdraw them; anything can be done. Having regard to that position, I cannot accept from this side of the House that there is anything *mala fide* on the part of the Ministry.

The honourable the mover has also said that the Ministry is also responsible for the promulgation of these Ordinances. I respectfully disagree with him, because section 88(*1*) says that if at any time when the Assembly is not in session the Governor is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take action, he can exercise his discretion in promulgating an Ordinance. It is within the jurisdiction of his own discretion. Thus, I do not see how the Ministry can be held responsible for the promulgation of these Ordinances.

Sir, with regard to the Bengal Pioneer Ordinance, it has been cited as an instance of *mala fide*, because it was enacted only the other day. Anyway, the law provides that the Governor can promulgate an Ordinance when the House is not in session, and the Governor has done it when he thought it necessary. So there is nothing illegal and there is nothing *mala fide* on the part of the Ministry. It has been said that the Ministry is trying to circumvent the provisions of the Act by coming in with these legislative measures. With regard to that we have heard the Chief Minister saying that there was nothing to circumvent and that he has already placed this measure before the House. So the question of circumvention does not arise at all.

With regard to individual Ordinances, the honourable mover compared them with *muri* and *misri*. I am sorry, I could not at all appreciate the comparison.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Have you tasted it?

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Of course, when time will come, I may have to taste it. The honourable members are perhaps aware that Muslims in the Punjab have already tasted it, and if time comes the members of this side of the House may be subjected to the operation of these Ordinances, if necessary.

Sir, the Viet Nam Day has been mentioned and it has been said that more powers are being given in the hands of the police officers. It is, of course, true, and I agree with the honourable mover and the members opposite, that in normal circumstances such powers should not be given in the hands of the ordinary police. But, Sir, the time is abnormal. You know and members of both sides of the House also perhaps know that there was no law and order on that occasion. People disobey law frequently and set fire to houses and offices, and what not? They insult officers within the office room and have no respect for law. Sir, if I may say so, democracy does not mean license and lawlessness. It matters little whether the law is Central or Provincial, and I hope every member of this House will agree with me that law must be there and be obeyed—be it a law of the Centre or of the Province, be it a law of democratic Government or of any other kind of Government. (A VOICE FROM OPPOSITION BENCHES: Not Communal Government.) Even if it be communal, there also law is necessary. Without law no Government can go on for even 24 hours. But what we are seeing all round is that there is no tendency or willingness to obey the law. Without law, Sir, no individual right is secure—houses of individual persons may be set fire to or their properties looted. I saw at Mymensingh, some people in their mad frenzy set fire to properties and houses of persons and officers.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: That was after the killing of some students.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: I was not present there, so I cannot vouch for it. But some of my friends opposite were present, and I do not know whether they were there to encourage that lawlessness. If any member of this House were present there to encourage lawlessness, I should condemn it with all the emphasis, I can command. We are law makers, we are not law breakers. If anybody breaks the law he must be brought to book. So long as there is law, the law must be maintained.

Mr. BENODE CHANDRA CHAKRABORTY: মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়, অর্ডিন্যান্স দ্বারা অসীম কর্ত্তৃত্ব সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীদের উপর অর্পণ করা হইয়াছে এবং উহার যে তিক্ত অভিজ্ঞতা দেশবাসী অর্জন করিয়াছে তাহাতে আর কোন অবস্থাতেই পুনঃ সমর্থন করা সম্ভব নয়। এই অর্ডিন্যান্স এতগুলি এক সঙ্গে আলোচনার যথেষ্ট সময় এবং সুযোগ যদিও আমরা না পাইয়া থাকি আমাদের সে সুযোগ পাওয়া উচিত ছিল। কিন্তু সময়ের অভাবে সবগুলি আলোচনা না করিয়া আমি বিশেষ-ভাবে একটি বিষয় সম্পর্কে আলোচনা করিতে চাই। সেটি হইতেছে Bengal Consumer Goods Control Ordinance. এই নিত্য ব্যবহার্য্য দ্রব্য নিয়ন্ত্রণে গভর্ণমেণ্ট কেবলমাত্র ব্যর্থ হন নাই বরং তাঁদের এই সামঞ্জস্যহীন নীতির জন্য জনসাধারণ প্রতিদিন যে দুর্ভোগ ভোগ করিতেছে তাহা যে কোন সাধারণ ব্যক্তি স্বীকার করিবেন। জনসাধারণের মনে এই কথাই বর্ত্তমানে উদ্রেক হইয়াছে, দুর্নীতিপরায়ণ ও অতিলোভী ব্যবসায়ী এবং সরকারের পৃষ্ঠপোষিত ব্যক্তিদের সুবিধার জন্যই ইহা চালু রাখা হইয়াছে। Scheduled ভুক্ত দ্রব্য বিতরণের ব্যাপারে জনসাধারণ যে দুর্ভোগ ভোগ করিতেছে তাহা সরকারী ব্যবস্থার ত্রুটিশূন্যতার জন্য নহে বরং দুর্নীতির প্রাবল্য অত্যধিক জন্যই। গভর্ণমেণ্টের লজ্জিত হওয়া উচিত যে নির্দ্দিষ্ট হারে কোন controlএর দ্রব্য পাওয়া যায় না এবং যে কোন সাধারণ লোকের পক্ষে তা পাওয়া একেবারে অসম্ভব। কেবলমাত্র ভাগ্য-বান ও তদবীরকারী উৎসাহী ব্যক্তিরাই তাহা পাইতে পারেন। কাগজেপত্রে সরকারী ব্যবস্থায় অবশ্য কোন ত্রুটি নাই কিন্তু কার্য্যতঃ দেখা যায় যে হয়রানী হওয়া ব্যতীত কোন ফল পাওয়া যায় না। অথচ রাস্তার ধারে ম্যাচবাতি হইতে আরম্ভ করিয়া প্রত্যেক দ্রব্যই উচ্চ মূল্যে প্রকাশ্যে বিক্রয় হইতেছে, কিন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্টের তাহা রোধ করিবার শক্তি বা দৃষ্টি নাই। মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী এবং সরকারী কর্ম্মচারিগণ জনসাধারণের অভাব অভিযোগ সম্পর্কে সব কিছুই অবগত আছেন কিন্তু প্রতিকারের কোন ব্যবস্থা আজ পর্য্যন্তও তাঁহারা করেন নাই। পারমিট বা লাইসেন্স পাওয়া সাধারণ লোকের পক্ষে একরূপ অসম্ভব ব্যাপার বলিয়া মনে হয়। প্রতিপত্তি ও প্রভাবশালী বা সরকারী কর্ম্মচারী-দিগের সহায়তা ভিন্ন কোন দ্রব্য পাইবার উপায় নাই। এই সমস্ত দ্রব্য লইয়া বিতরণে ব্যবসায়িগণের সহায়তায় এবং যোগাযোগে সরকারী কর্ম্মচারিগণ যে চোরাবাজার সৃষ্টি করিয়াছেন এবং আজ তাই এতই ব্যাপক হইয়া

উঠিয়াছে যে জনসাধারণ আর বিশ্বাস করিতে পারিতেছে না ইহার কোনও প্রতিকার পাওয়া যাইতে পারে। বাস্তব ক্ষেত্রে দেখা যাইতেছে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী উদাসীন এবং সরকারী কর্ম্মচারিগণ যথেচ্ছভাবে দুর্নীতির প্রশ্রয় দিয়া চলিয়াছেন। এই অসহায় অবস্থার মাঝে এই Ordinance দ্বারা দেশবাসীর কোনও কল্যাণ হইতে পারে না বরং দুর্নীতি ও চোরাবাজার বৃদ্ধি পাইবে। সরকারী কর্ম্মচারিগণের উপর এরূপ ব্যাপক ক্ষমতা Ordinanceএ অর্পণ করা অত্যন্ত নিন্দনীয়। বিশেষতঃ বর্ত্তমানে যে সকল সরকারী কর্ম্মচারী নিযুক্ত আছেন তাঁহারা চাকুরিয়া হিসাবে কাজ করিয়া থাকেন, জনসাধারণের সেবা বা উপকার বা কোনও হিত চিন্তা করিবার মত মনোবৃত্তি তাঁহাদের নাই বা সে দরদও নাই, এই প্রকার মনোবৃত্তিসম্পন্ন কর্ম্মচারিগণের উপর যে কোনও ক্ষমতা অর্পণ করা হউক না কেন তাহার ফল কখনও ভাল হতে পারে না। দ্রব্য সরবরাহ ব্যবস্থা এমনভাবে নিয়ন্ত্রিত হইতেছে যে, তাহারই ফলে অনেক অসুবিধার সৃষ্টি হইতেছে। সরকারী কর্ম্মচারিগণের অনুগ্রহভাজন বা তাঁহাদের অনুগ্রহ ব্যতীত কিম্বা তাঁহাদের তুষ্ট না করিয়া কেহ কোনও জিনিষ বা তাহার licence পাইতে পারেন না। আবার এমন অনেক লোককে licence দেওয়া হইয়া থাকে যাহারা দ্রব্য সংগ্রহের অর্থই জোগাইতে পারেন না এবং সেই licence চোরাবাজারে চলিয়া যায় এবং দ্রব্যাদির মূল্যও বৃদ্ধি পায়।

এই Ordinance শাসন অত্যন্ত নিশার্হ এবং দেশের পক্ষে ক্ষতিকর, আমি ইহার বিরুদ্ধে আপত্তি জানাইতেছি।

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is always great dissatisfaction and disapproval of Ordinances promulgated by one single person who happens to be at the head of the Government under the British bureaucratic system of Government. Practically the Ordinances are the remnants of dying imperialism or one-man *Raj*. As such, every civilised country or every civilised people must raise an angry voice of protest against the Ordinances. But, Sir, we have got to see whether the phases through which we are passing in this Province, whether the situation that is obtaining around us, give us ample justification for the promulgation of the Ordinances.

Sir, after this Ministry came into office, they were practically lying on a bed of thorns, they had not even one day's peace, there were disturbances in Calcutta, in Noakhali, in Dacca, in Saidpur and in many places and these disturbances necessitated the promulgation of Ordinances for the safety of the minority who are now clamouring about these Ordinances.

Well, Sir, what would happen if with a strong measure and by promulgation of Ordinances Government did not cow down this lawlessness that was rampant in the country after we met at the last session. I say, they are coming here to tell us against the Ordinances. They have reaped the benefit of these Ordinances. There was the Crop Harvesting Ordinance in Noakhali and Tippera. By virtue of that Ordinance the crops are still lying there for the brethren of that community who are sitting on the other side.

Now, Sir, I should say that on the floor of this House on another occasion, the Secretary of the Provincial Muslim League said they ought to have been grateful for promulgating these Ordinances.

We are, Sir, doing much further even for them than these Ordinances. Take, for example, the Dacca Security Ordinance and the Noakhali and Tippera Security Ordinance. These are being applied against the Muslims and it is a Muslim Government. Why are we doing it? For your safety. So, the minority has got nothing to complain against these Ordinances, but ungrateful as the minority is in this, Province, they are still complaining when we seek some ameliorative measure. They say "We do not want them". My friends, it is no use shutting your eyes to the lawlessness. It is no use telling us that we are not fit to run the Government, because we have promulgated these Ordinances. Of course, it was done with our knowledge and no Ordinance could have been passed until and unless the Cabinet was consulted. I agree with that. But, Sir, it was necessary and the Ministry

or the Governor, for the matter of that, was amply justified to promulgate the Ordinances considering the situation that was in the country at that time.

Now, Sir, there are two kinds of Ordinances that were enacted by the Governor under the provisions of the Government of India Act. Some Ordinances deal with public peace and tranquillity. For example, the Security Ordinances of Dacca and Tippera, the Pioneer Force Ordinance, the Civic Guards Ordinance, the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, the Special Powers Ordinance—these are only meant for the security of peace and tranquillity in the province. Not only that, Government still believed that the necessity for those Ordinances has not yet passed away. That is why they are bringing those Ordinances in a Bill form. Other Ordinances that were promulgated relate to matters of Civil Supplies, for example, the Molasses Control, the Drugs Control, the Consumer Goods Control. Of course, you know that with the termination of the war the Defence of India Rules had their natural death, but the after-effects of the war are still there. We are running in acute shortage of food-stuff and other materials about which provisions were made in these Ordinances. Sir, as there has been shortage of these materials and there has been a general tendency in the country for black-marketing, so these Ordinances were also justified to be promulgated by the Governor. If this House thinks that they are not justified in promulgating these Ordinances and necessarily they must also say that the Bills which are coming are also not justified, they should remember that if these measures are not enacted and if we do not take sufficient measures in our hands, we cannot prevent any lawlessness that may break out in the country. But we must use them sparingly. That assurance, I think, the Leader of the House may give you that they will be used sparingly. But why, considering the situation in the country and in this province, such wide powers should not be kept in the hands of Government either in the name of Ordinances or in the name of enactments as we are having now? So, Sir, I should recommend to the House that these resolutions coming from persons on the other side who have not considered the conditions obtaining in the country very seriously should be thrown out.

With these words, I oppose the resolutions.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহাশয়, বাংলার মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী যে সমস্ত অর্ডিন্যান্স আইন করবার জন্য এই Houseএর সম্মুখে উপস্থিত করেছেন, আমি সেই সমস্ত অর্ডিন্যান্সগুলি আইন হওয়ার তীব্র প্রতিবাদ জানাচ্ছি। আজ আমি Bengal Consumer Goods Control Ordinanceএর বিশেষভাবে প্রতিবাদ জ্ঞাপন করছি। বাংলা সরকারের সরবরাহ বিভাগের মন্ত্রী মহাশয় গত বাজেট অধিবেশনে স্বীকার করেছিলেন য সরবরাহ বিভাগের বহু কর্ম্মচারী উৎকোচগ্রাহী। তিনি সেই সমস্ত উৎকোচগ্রাহী কর্ম্মচারীদের চাকুরী থেকে রখাস্ত করবার কোন ব্যবস্থা আজ পর্য্যন্ত করেছেন কি না তাই তাঁকে জিজ্ঞাসা করি। আজ আবার এই Bengal Consumer Goods Control Ordinance দ্বারা তিনি আরও ব্যাপক ক্ষমতা হাতে নিতে যাচ্ছেন। যুদ্ধ প্রায় ।। বৎসর শেষ হয়েছে। এখন মানুষের জীবনযাত্রা স্বাভাবিকতায় ফিরে আসবার কথা কিন্তু এখন পর্য্যন্ত তার কোন ক্ষণ দেখা যায় না। মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী যাঁরা পক্ষপাতদুষ্ট ও সাম্প্রদায়িক বিভেদে বরাবর যাঁরা উস্কানী দিয়ে এসেছেন, যারা নিজেদের হাতের ক্ষমতা পাছে চলে যায়, সেই আশঙ্কায় নূতন আইন করে নূতন ক্ষমতা হাতে নিতে চাইছেন তাঁদের বাংলা দেশের কোটি কোটি লোকের সুখ সুবিধার দিকে লক্ষ্য আছে কি না বলতে পারি না কিন্তু তাঁদের নিজেদের ক্ষমতার মোহ, নিজেদের হাতে ক্ষমতা রাখবার ও নিজেদের দলের লোককে সাহায্যদানে পুষ্ট করবার আগ্রহ পূর্ণমাত্রায় প্রকাশ পাচ্ছে। আমি আজ তাই এখানে Bengal Consumer Goods Control Ordinanceএর প্রতিবাদ জানাচ্ছি। এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী বাংলা দেশের জনসাধারণের সুখ সুবিধার দিকে বিন্দুমাত্র দৃষ্টিপাত করেন না। এবং তাঁরা যে সমস্ত নিত্য ব্যবহার্য্য দ্রব্য control করবার আইন উত্থাপন করেছেন, চক্ষের সামনে আজ দেখতে পাচ্ছি, তাঁদের আইন থাকা সত্ত্বেও তা মানছে না। আজ কলিকাতা সহরের প্রতি রাস্তায় দেখা যায় যে দেশলাইর দাম দুই পয়সা থাকা সত্ত্বেও প্রকাশ্যভাবে Governmentএর Enforcement ও সাধারণ পুলিশ বিভাগের শত শত কর্ম্মচারী থাকা সত্ত্বেও সেই দেশলাই এগার আনা

ছজন বিক্রয় হচ্ছে। আমরা চোখের সামনে দেখতে পাচ্ছি প্রত্যেক জিনিষ যেমন brass utensils ও অন্যান্য জিনিষ, চোরাবাজারে যথেষ্ট বেশী দামে বিক্রয় হচ্ছে। পল্লী গ্রামের অবস্থা আরও খারাপ। সহরে দেশলাই বরং চার পয়সায় পাওয়া যায় কিন্তু পল্লীগ্রামে ৫।৬ পয়সায় এমন কি দুই আনায়ও পাওয়া যায় না। আমি আজ মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীকে জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই তাঁরা নূতন করে এতগুলি জিনিষ নিয়ন্ত্রণ আইন করে নিজের হাতে নিতে চান কেন? তাঁরা কি দেখতে পাচ্ছেন না যে তাঁরা যে এত টাকা খরচ করে এতগুলি লোক Enforcement Branchএ নিযুক্ত করেছেন তাঁরা কিরূপভাবে তাঁদের কর্ত্তব্য পালন করছেন? মন্ত্রী মহাশয়গণ দরিদ্র দেশবাসীর বুকের রক্ত শোষণ করা হাজার হাজার টাকা বেতন নিয়ে দিব্য আরামে বসে আছেন, আইন সভায় সংখ্যাগরিষ্ঠতার সুযোগ নিয়ে। আজ আমি বলতে চাই political majority ছাড়াও মানবতার একটা দিক আছে। আর মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর অবহেলায় বাংলা দেশে যেরূপভাবে হত্যার লীলা চলে গিয়েছে তা কারও অজানা নাই। সেই সমস্ত দেখেও তার প্রতিকার করবার চেষ্টা না করে পুনরায় নিজেদের হাতে নূতন নূতন ক্ষমতা নেবার জন্য তাঁরা এত উদগ্রীব কেন? যদি তাঁরা তাঁদের ক্ষমতার সদ্ব্যবহার করতেন, যদি তাঁরা কোটি কোটি নিপীড়িত নিরন্ন দেশবাসীর দুঃখ কষ্ট দূর করতে চেষ্টা করতেন, তাহলে তাঁদের হাতে ক্ষমতা দেওয়া যেত; কিন্তু গত এক বৎসর ধরে তাঁরা যে অক্ষমতার পরিচয় দিয়েছেন, জনসাধারণের সুখ দুঃখের প্রতি যেরূপ উদাসীনতার পরিচয় দিয়েছেন, তাতে তাঁদের হাতে আর তিলমাত্র ক্ষমতা দিতে আমরা প্রস্তুত নই। বাংলা দেশের সমস্ত লোক আজ মন্ত্রী-সভার দিকে চেয়ে আছে, তাদের নির্বাচিত প্রতিনিধিদের দিকে চেয়ে আছে। কিন্তু তারা কি পেয়েছে? যুদ্ধ এতদিন শেষ হয়ে যাওয়ার পরও স্বাভাবিক জীবনযাত্রা ফিরে আসে নাই বরং জীবনযাত্রা ক্রমশঃ দুরূহ হয়ে উঠছে। যুদ্ধের সময় যে মূল্যে জিনিষপত্র পাওয়া যেত, আজ যদিও দেড় বৎসর যুদ্ধ শেষ হয়েছে, কিন্তু দ্রব্যমূল্য ক্রমেই বেড়ে যাচ্ছে। আর সময় নাই, আমি এই কথা বলে এই Ordinanceগুলির তীব্র প্রতিবাদ করছি।

Mr. MD. ABDUS SALAM: মিঃ ডেপুটি স্পীকার, এই Ordinance সমর্থন করতে দাঁড়িয়ে এই কথাই আমার মনে পড়ছে এবং আমার ধারণা ছিল যে আমাদের Opposition Party Chief Minister সাহেবকে অভিনন্দন জ্ঞাপন করবেন যেহেতু তিনি এই Ordinance পাশ করেছেন। (A VOICE FROM THE OPPOSITION SIDE আপনারা করুন, আপনারা করুন।) আমি আশ্চর্য্যান্বিত হলাম যে উঁহারা oppose করছেন। যা কিছু করেছেন তাঁহাদের সুবিধার জন্যই করেছেন। তাঁহাদের সৌভাগ্যবশতঃ যাঁরা বাংলায় Ordinance execute করেছেন তাঁরা সকলেই তাঁহাদের communityর। Police Department, D. I. B. Department বিশেষ করে D. I. B. Departmentএ শতকরা ৯৫% জন হিন্দু। ত্রিপুরা, নোয়াখালীতে আমরা দেখেছি যে মুসলমানদের অন্যায়ভাবে Ordinanceএ আটক রেখে জেলে পোরা হয়েছে। দৃষ্টান্ত স্বরূপ বলতে পারি President Abdul Hamid এবং আরও অনেক গণ্যমান্য লোক যাঁরা আমাদের হিন্দু ভাইদের যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে সাহায্য করেছেন, বিপদে আপদে সব সময় তাঁদের রক্ষা করেছেন, সেই সমস্ত নিরীহ মুসলমানকে অন্যায়ভাবে হিন্দু পুলিশ এবং হিন্দু D. I. B. লোকেরা ধরে মিছামিছি তাঁদের জেলে পাঠিয়েছে।

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: On a point of order, Sir. Are members allowed to use expressions calculated to incite communal hatred and communal passions? Policemen are policemen. How does the question of religion come in?

Mr. MD. ABDUS SALAM: Deputy Speaker, Sir, তারপর minority communityর জন্য এই আইন করা হয়েছে। যারা আল্লাহ আকবর শুনে বাড়ীঘর ছেড়ে পালিয়ে যায়, যারা বাড়ীঘরে থাকতে চায় না, তাদের জন্য দরকার Defenceএর এবং সেইজন্য দরকার Civic Guard ও Home Guard ইত্যাদি। কাজেই এই যে Ordinance হয়েছে এটা কাদের সুবিধার জন্য সেটা চিন্তা করে দেখুন। যেহেতু এখানে মুসলিম লীগ Ministry বা যেহেতু এখানে majority communityর Ministry সেইজন্য minorityকে রক্ষা করবার জন্য এবং minorityকে তাঁদের সমগ্র সুবিধা দেবার জন্য এই Ordinance এর দরকার। তাছাড়া majorityর উপর যেরূপ অত্যাচার হচ্ছে তা থেকেও তাদের রক্ষা করবার জন্য এই Ordinanceএর ব্যবস্থা করা Governmentএর উচিত। কাজেই এই Ordinance আমি সমর্থন করি।

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I shall be very short, but I have risen to speak, because I feel that it is my bounden duty to

register my severest protest against not only the way the Ordinances are being brought before the House, but the very fact that most of these Ordinances are at all brought before us.

Members have been suggesting on the Government benches that Ordinances are necessary, because the situation is such in Bengal today. I would remind them to look back a little and say whether the police did not act, because they lacked powers. We have found the Calcutta Police and police elsewhere in Bengal acting, firing and wounding and bullying our students, kishans, in the fields, our workers in the factories. They did not need special powers to do so, but we have seen how the police pleaded inability to do anything, pleaded helplessness when the Calcutta fratricidal war took place, and yet Mr. Suhrawardy asks us to accept all these Ordinances promulgated by the Governor. Government is taking us back to those unspeakable days of Sir John Anderson, and Mr. Suhrawardy dittos the actions of the Governor. Sir, I shall not preach morality to Mr. Suhrawardy. I would ask him to look at the Punjab where his fellow brethren, Muslim Leaguers, are fighting a great battle against injustice, against the curtailment of civil liberties. (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Which I support.) Mr. Suhrawardy supports those people going to jail and fighting. Even Mr. Feroze Khan Noon has gone to jail. But Mr. Suhrawardy has promulgated the same kind of Ordinance against which the Punjab Leaguers are fighting. Therefore I shall not preach morality to him, but I should like to tell him that he is insulting the intelligence of his Muslim compatriots in Bengal. Does he think that for long they will tolerate such inconsistencies; that they will tolerate such hypocrisies, if I may say so? Mr. Deputy Speaker, I say the police have sufficient powers to act only, if they want to. On the Viet Nam Day they darkened the skies of Calcutta by using tear gas. Where were all this tear gas and bombs stored up when the fratricidal war was going on here and when there was great killing going on in Noakhali and elsewhere? I do not know where those bombs were stored up. Therefore there is no use telling us that the police want extra powers. I know that the Ordinances have been promulgated by the Governor and those are meant to crush the freedom movement of the citizens of the country and to crush all civil liberties to prevent any movement for bread and a better standard of life. And that is how the Ordinances are going to be used against our people. We have seen that the Ordinances are already in operation and we have already seen that people have been arrested without any charge against them. And under these Ordinances, at least some of them—specially I refer to the Bengal Special Powers Ordinance and its subsequent amendment—people can be put into prison without trial and the ordinary police can arrest anybody without a warrant and even a person's property can be auctioned and sold out. These are the powers given to the police whom we know only too well.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Not yet used.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mr. Suhrawardy says, not yet used. Perhaps Mr. Suhrawardy does not know, but he should enquire and he will find out that such cases have already taken place, because people have been arrested under the Ordinance. It is no use the Hon'ble Minister telling us that he needs all these powers to fight against lawlessness. If he wants to see how to curb lawlessness then he should look to the strikes that take place in which the Hindus and Muslims are united in their fight against their employers. Therefore, I say these Ordinances must not be passed. I would appeal, specially to the Muslim League benches and I would ask them to think of their fellow fighters in the Punjab and consider the effect on them of these Ordinances here. I know they are in a majority

and that these Ordinances can be passed by them, but at least they should think seriously and not arm the Hardwicks, Dohas and Mazumdars Bastins and other bureaucratic officers who kill Hajongs, men and women, and who kill Calcutta students and citizens of Bengal all the time.

Mr. RAMHARI ROY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I would like to draw the attention of the members to the fact that the question we are discussing today is not a very minor point of interest of the Legislature, because these Ordinances are taking away the general powers of the Legislature. I think that the members will all agree with me that the steps that take away the general powers of the Legislature must be objected to.

Sir, I oppose these Ordinances, because these Ordinances are nothing but a trick and an attempt to arm the present Ministry with special powers only to be misused and abused. The members all know, Sir, that we are being governed by the Ordinances for a long time, but what do we find here in Bengal? I would request you not to be blind to the hard fact. I think that the members will agree with me that these Ordinances have not done any good to us; on the contrary, on account of the pursuit of a communal policy by the present Ministry, this Government have only done mischief, specially to the minority community, and these special powers have been administered to crush the minority community of this Province.

Sir, some of the members on the Government side have made a special reference to collective fines. I must point out to the honourable members, that practically the collective fines have no deterrent effect. If the members look to the incidents at Dacca, they will find that these collective fines have practically failed to check the real miscreants, but on the contrary many innocent people have been punished thereby.

It has been said that the situation is so emergent in Bengal, that it justifies the promulgation of these Ordinances. But if the members look to the real things, if they look to the objective conditions in Bengal, they will all, I think, agree with me that the Ordinances have failed to change the atmosphere in Bengal. On the contrary, the change that these Ordinances have brought is the failure of the Government to mete out justice, and as a result discrimination plays a most important role through these Ordinances. So when we see that this Ministry are not meeting out any justice through these Ordinances, but are, on the contrary, using these powers as weapons to crush the minority community we cannot, but object to and disapprove these Ordinances.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The business of today will be carried over to the 18th.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-28 p.m. till 4-45 p.m. on Friday, the 14th February, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 14th February, 1947, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 6 Hon'ble Ministers and 197 Members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Introduction of Secondary Education and some other Bills.

*41. **Mr. MD. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware that the public are very eager and anxious to see that the Secondary Education Bill, the Calcutta University Regulation Amendment Bill, the Bengal Wakf Act (Amendment) Bill and the Madrasah Education Bill are immediately introduced?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he proposes to introduce the Bills referred to in (*a*) in this or in the next session of the Bengal Legislative Assembly?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Saiyed Muazamuddin Hosain): (*a*) and (*b*) It is proposed to introduce the Bengal Secondary Education Bill and the Bengal Wakf (Amendment) Bill in this session. Regarding Calcutta University Regulation Amendment Bill it is not ready. No Madrasah Bill is under consideration.

Mr. HASSAN ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the answer to question (*a*) is in the affirmative or negative?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: Yes, the Ministry is aware of the eagerness of the people for the introduction of this Bill.

Mr. HASSAN ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any Madrasah Bill is under consideration?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: No Madrasah Bill is under consideration.

Mr. HASSAN ALI: Why?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: Because there is no such Bill before the Government.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that a very large section of the public is opposed to the introduction of the Secondary Education Bill in the form in which it was presented last time?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: The Ministry is aware that there is a section in support of the Bill and there is also a section against it.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the old Madrasah scheme requires amendment?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: The old Madrasah scheme is under the consideration of an expert committee now.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the controversy over the Secondary Education Bill has been settled after an agreement among the different parties of this House?

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not come within the purview of this question.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: In the answer it is stated that regarding Calcutta University Regulation Amendment Bill it is not ready. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is in contemplation of the Ministry as to when they propose to bring such a Bill?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: No such Bill is before the Government now.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Regarding the Calcutta University Regulation Amendment Bill, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is under preparation and, if so, when is it coming before the House?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: The question is not before the Ministry now and the Ministry is prepared to consider the question when it comes up before it.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government has received any communication from the Calcutta University regarding the Secondary Education Bill?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: Negotiation is going on between the Ministry and the Calcutta University and the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University and it will not be expedient to expose just at this stage all the stages that the negotiation is passing through.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give an idea as to the nature of the negotiation?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: It will not be expedient to expose those things at this stage.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HUQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government contemplates the desirability of bringing in a Madrasah Bill very soon

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: No Bill for the Madrasahs is under contemplation. The syllabus of the old Madrasahs is just now under the consideration of an expert committee.

Mr. MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to disclose the personnel of the expert committee that is examining the old Madrasah scheme?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: That was published in the "Calcutta Gazette".

Mr. SPEAKER: Next question.

Mr. A. F. STARK: On a point of privilege. We understood that supplementary questions on Starred Question No. 40 were to be continued today, but we find that it has been passed over.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am told that the Deputy Speaker did not agree to that proposal and therefore that question was closed.

Selection of students for advanced study overseas in electrical generation.

*42. **Mr. HEM CHANDRA NASKAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of Bengal has decided to give some "Overseas Study Scholarships" for the education in electrical generation?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the candidates were asked to appear before the Public Service Commission on the 18th March last;

(*ii*) that a large number of candidates applied for the scholarships of which 10 were Scheduled Castes; and

(*iii*) that three Scheduled Caste candidates were favoured to interview before the Public Service Commission?

(*c*) Is it a fact that no Scheduled Caste candidate has been selected by the said Commission?

(*d*) If the answers to (*b*) and (*c*) are in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of holding immediate enquiries into the matter and taking proper steps so that the scholarships are given according to Communal Ratio Rules?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain): By the courtesy of the Public Service Commission, Bengal, the Ministry are in a position to reply as follows:—

(*a*) Yes. Three scholarships in the subject were advertised by the Public Service Commission, Bengal.

(*b*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Twenty-three applications were received, two of which were from members of the Scheduled Castes.

(*iii*) Two Scheduled Caste candidates were interviewed.

(*c*) No Scheduled Caste candidate was recommended.

(*d*) As no member of the Scheduled Castes was found suitable for any scholarship in the subject and as the final selection has already been made with the approval of the Government of India no further action in the matter is called for now.

Mr. RAJENDRA NATH SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names and educational qualifications of the two Scheduled Caste candidates who were granted interview?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: It cannot be given offhand.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the selections were made strictly in accordance with the recommendation of the Public Service Commission?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: Yes.

Mr. RAJENDRA NATH SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Communal Ratio Rules will be followed in distributing such scholarships in future?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: Yes.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many applications were received from Muslims?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: I want notice.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any scholarship has gone to the Muslims?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: The scholarships that are reserved for Muslims must go to the Muslims, but in this case it is not clear whether any scholarship was reserved for Muslims.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: My question is whether any one of these three scholarships has gone to Muslims.

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: I want notice.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is the policy of the Government to maintain the communal ratio in the matter of giving scholarships irrespective of the recommendations of the Public Service Commission?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: No, the communal ratio is decided before the whole thing is referred to the Public Service Commission and as far as possible that is followed.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there was any reference made to the Public Service Commission in the matter of giving these scholarships?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: It is not clear what particular case you are referring to.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: I am referring to scholarships involved in this question.

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: The Public Service Commission is always requested to maintain the communal ratio in making selections as far as possible.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is the policy of Government to make a reference to the Public Service Commission in the matter of maintenance of Communal Ratio Rules in giving scholarships?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: Yes.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any reference was made in connection with these scholarships?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: That is the standing practice and rule, and in all scholarships the Public Service Commission is requested to maintain that ratio.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: In view of the answer just now given will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to why no Scheduled Caste candidates were selected for these scholarships?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: Answer to question (*d*) is an answer to this question.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Scheduled Caste candidates had the minimum qualifications for the scholarships?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: The Public Service Commission did not consider their qualifications to be up to the mark.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if when suitable candidates were not available from this Province, Scheduled Caste candidates from other Provinces could apply for those posts and be eligible for scholarships?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: That has not been followed in practice. The question may be considered in future.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of the persons to whom scholarships were given?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: The names are not readily available; I want notice.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is bound by the recommendation of the Public Service Commission?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: Generally speaking Government is bound by the recommendation of the Public Service Commission.

Number of nurses appointed in A. C. Hospitals in Nilphamari subdivision.

***43. Mr. KHAIRAT HOSSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health (Medical) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of nurses who worked in all the F.R.E. Hospitals now called Government Auxiliary Hospitals of Nilphamari subdivision up to 31st March, 1946;

(*ii*) the number of nurses retained in the above hospitals after 31st March, 1946;

(*iii*) the number of new untrained and trained nurses separately appointed in July, 1946, in the above hospitals; and

(*iv*) whether the Government contemplate to convert Jackson Medical School of Jalpaiguri into a medical college?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*) (*iv*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

(*c*) If the reply to (*a*) (*iv*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when it will be done?

MINISTER in charge of the DEPARTMENT of HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*)(*i*) Forty-one.

(*ii*) Twenty-one.

(*iii*) New untrained nurses—3. Trained nurses—11.

(*iv*) Government propose to convert gradually most of their medical schools, including the Jackson Medical School, Jalpaiguri, into medical colleges. In the first five years of their Post-War Reconstruction Plan it has accordingly been decided to convert two of the medical schools, viz., Dacca and Campbell. No decision has yet been reached in respect of a similar programme for the next five years.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

Mr. MUHAMMAD RUKNUDDIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in appointment matters everywhere Communal Ratio Rules are maintained?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Communal Ratio Rules are not always maintained, but they are maintained as far as practicable.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the services of these 20 nurses were dispensed with.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Because of retrenchment and following upon the disbandment and closing down of certain F. R. E. hospitals.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of Muslim and Hindu nurses including Caste Hindu nurses in the district of Rangpur?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The total number of nurses is 101 in the district of Rangpur of which Hindus are 64, Muslim 36 and Christian 1. Hindus—Male 39, female 25. Muslims—Male 33, female 3. Christian —Male nil, female 1.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is contemplating to observe the Communal Ratio Rule in the matter of appointment of nurses?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir. Every effort is being made to maintain communal parity in accordance with the Communal Ratio Rules, but unfortunately Muslim female nurses are not readily available.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of Scheduled Caste nurses?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: We have no Scheduled Caste nurses in the district of Rangpur.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to indicate the time at which conversion of the Dacca and Campbell schools into colleges will be completed?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Dacca school has already been converted into a college and the college is now functioning in the district of Dacca. So far as Campbell school is concerned, it is contemplated to upgrade it from next year. There is no fixed decision arrived at yet, it may be next year or it may be the year following.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government desire to establish at least one medical school in every district?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Government think that that would be the desideratum, but Government have no plan by which Government can provide medical school in every district of the Province.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken to enlist Scheduled Caste women as nurses?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: No special step has been taken to enlist the nurses from any particular community, but when the posts fall vacant, according to Communal Ratio Rules applications are invited, but if applications are not received, no further effort is made by Government.

Mr. JASIMUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the percentage in the total enrolment of male nurses?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: That will require mathematical calculation. I have already given figures of male as well as female nurses. If the honourable member is apt in mathematics, I am sure he will be able to work it out.

Mr. JASIMUDDIN AHMED: Has the Communal Ratio Rule been observed in respect of the appointment of male nurses?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: So far as male nurses are concerned in the district, there are more Muslim male nurses than Hindu male nurses. It is the figure of Muslim female nurses that is only 3 as opposed to 30 Hindu. So far as Muslim nurses in the Rangpur district are concerned, we have more Muslim nurses.

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: With reference to answers (*a*)(*i*) and (*ii*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us the reason why the number of nurses has been reduced from 41 to 21?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I have already replied to the question that these steps were taken consequent on the abolition of certain hospitals.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any practice of maintaining Communal Ratio Rules in the matter of admitting patients?

Mr. SPEAKER: I disallow this question.

Posts of Civil Surgeons in Bengal.

***44. Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HUQUE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health and Local Self-Government (Medical) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of posts of Civil Surgeon in Bengal;

(*b*) how many of these posts are held by—

(*i*) Muslims,

(*ii*) Caste Hindus,

(*iii*) Scheduled Castes,

(*iv*) Europeans,

(*v*) Anglo-Indians, and

(*vi*) members of other communities; and

(*c*) how many of them are temporary and permanent under different categories mentioned in (*b*) above?

Mr. S. A. SALIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*) Twenty-six.

		Permanent.	Temporary.
(*b*)	(*i*)	2	4
	(*ii*)	10	8
	(*iii*)	Nil	Nil.
	(*iv*)	3	Nil.
	(*v*)	Nil	Nil.
	(*vi*)	Nil	2
		15	14=29

Two Muslim and 1 Caste Hindu Civil Surgeons are on deputation.

(*c*) *Vide* reply to (*b*) above.

Mr. JOGENDRA CHANDRA DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the Scheduled Castes are deprived of these services as the vacancies are filled up according to the Communal Ratio Rules?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Civil Surgeons are appointed by promotion. As far as Communal Ratio Rules are concerned, they do not apply to promotion.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how he is to reconcile the disparity that exists in this department with regard to the appointment of Civil Surgeons between the Hindus and Muhammadans?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I have already stated that as far as Communal Ratio Rules are concerned, they do not apply to promotion.

Mr. MD. ABDUS SALAM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the Communal Ratio Rules are not observed in the case of promotions?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: As far as the rules are framed, there is no provision of the Communal Ratio Rules being made applicable in the case of promotions.

Mr. RAM HARI ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the cases where the Communal Ratio Rules are applicable?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: In all Government appointments.

Surjya Kanta Hospital, Mymensingh.

*45. **Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health Department aware—

(*i*) that daily a huge number of outdoor patients, both male and female, is used to attend the Surjya Kanta Hospital in Mymensingh Town for medical aid;

(*ii*) that many of those patients come from far off villages even; and

(*iii*) that invariably every day many of them have to wait for hours together before their cases happen to be attended to, if at all?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) if there is any proper arrangement in the shape of waiting room or otherwise in the Surjya Kanta Hospital for the said outdoor patients' inevitable long stay before they may receive aid; if not, why not;

(*ii*) if there are proper arrangements in the shape of water-taps, tube-wells or otherwise for providing the outdoor patients with water for drinking and other purposes; if not, why not;

(*iii*) if there is any arrangement whatsoever for latrines and urinals; if not, why not;

(*iv*) if he is aware that almost daily women patients in particular have to face extreme difficulties in the matter of answering nature's call; and

(*v*) if he is aware that instances occur almost daily of the women patients being forced by impelling necessity either to answer nature's calls in the open or to allow their garments to be soiled?

(*c*) Does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of taking immediate steps towards making proper provisions for waiting room, water-supply, latrines and urinals both for male and female outdoor patients of the Surjya Kanta Hospital, Mymensingh?

Mr. S. A. SALIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) May be.

(*iii*) The number of patients is large and is rapidly increasing. The number of doctors is however limited. Hence patients have naturally sometimes to wait before they can be attended.

(*b*) (*i*) There is accommodation for waiting cases, which is however inadequate for a large number of patients.

(*ii*) There is a tube-well in the Outpatient Department which is out of order at present. Works and Buildings Department has been approached for the repairs.

(*iii*) There is no separate arrangement for latrine and urinals for the outpatients.

(*iv*) No such complaint has been received by the Superintendent of the hospital.

(*v*) The Superintendent has no knowledge of such occurrences.

(*c*) Arrangements for proper accommodation, water-supply, latrine and urinals for the outpatients are considered necessary and will be taken up as schemes of post-war development work as early as possible.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়, অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি, যে প্রশ্নের ভিতরের শেষভাগে যে বলা হয়েছে post-war development schemeএ latrine এবং urinalsএর ব্যবস্থা করা হবে, কিন্তু সে জন্য অপেক্ষা না করে এখনই একটা temporary ব্যবস্থা করে দিলে কি হয় ?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Already orders have been issued and the matter is being taken up by the Works and Buildings Departments.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: With reference to answer (*a*)(*iii*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he thinks it desirable to increase the number of doctors in view of ever increasing number of patients?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: The matter will receive due consideration of the Government.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: With reference to answer (*b*)(*ii*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state for how long this tube-well is out of order?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I ask for notice.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: With reference to answer (*b*)(*i*) wherein reference has been made to accommodation, is the Hon'ble Minister aware that accommodation here means a narrow space in the verandah in front of the Outdoor Patients' Ward?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: That may be so.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long it will take to remove the grievances that have been brought to the notice of the Government?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: As I have already said, orders have already been issued for making arrangements for tube-wells and other things necessary for the patients.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that similar troubles and disadvantages are being felt by patients in other hospitals as well?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: In view of the fact that the grievances are long-standing and serious, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why is it that the Superintendent did not bring these grievances to the notice of the Government?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: The Superintendent brought the grievances to the notice of the Government which have now been referred to the Public Works Department.

Mr. HEMANTA KUMAR BASU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the number of patients in this hospital is so large? Is it due to outbreak of any diseases?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Because this hospital is getting more and more popular.

Mr. KANAILAL DASS: With reference to question (*b*)(*iv*) does the Government feel any necessity to provide for latrines for female patients?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Yes. And as I have already said, Government have already taken action in the matter.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: In view of the admission of the Government that there is no tube-well for out-door patients, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of making any temporary arrangement for water-supply?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Yes, orders have already been issued, and I hope it will be all right by now.

Mr. BENODE CHANDRA CHAKRABORTY: Did the Superintendent of the hospital ever complain about the difficulties?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: He did complain about the difficulties, and the matter has been referred to the Public Works Department.

Ferry boat disaster at Mymensingh Kachari Chat.

***46. Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether he is aware of a ferry boat disaster on the 26th July, 1946, causing the deaths of a number of passengers at Mymensingh Kachari Ghat?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of setting up a Joint Enquiry Committee consisting of officials and non-officials to enquire and report after local enquiry at an early date as to—

(*i*) causes of the disaster;

(*ii*) why a *dingi* (small boat) was allowed to ply when the river was full to the brim;

(*iii*) whether any reasonable attempt was made by the ferry establishment to avert the disaster;

(*iv*) whether the motive to ply the *dingi* boats is to realise extra unauthorised tolls from the passengers;

(*v*) what immediate steps the district officers and the local police took in the matter; and

(*vi*) what action may be taken by the Provincial Government to stop recurrence of such disasters in future?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) As the matter is under investigation, answer cannot be given.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when I can expect an answer and when the enquiry is going to be completed?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: As soon as the investigation is over.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that I put the question in the Assembly in June last?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: It may be so, but unfortunately the investigation is not yet complete.

Kaharpara outrage, Chittagong.

*47. **Mr. FAZLUL QUADER:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware of the outrage committed by the "Ganjam Labour Corps" (Civil Pioneer Force) in village Kaharpara, district Chittagong, on the evening of January 7th, 1946?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

(*i*) how many persons were in this corps;

(*ii*) how many took part in it according to Government communique published on the 15th January, 1946, or thereabout;

(*iii*) how many culprits were convicted;

(*iv*) what actions the Civil Government or the Military authorities have taken against the rest; and

(*v*) if no action was taken, the reasons therefore, and whether these low class ruffians were allowed to go unpunished?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any action has been taken against the Captain of the corps; if so, what is the result;

(*ii*) what was the extent of damage done to this village in respect of life and property according to the Government estimate,

(*iii*) whether Government received any report of non-official enquiry in the matter;

(*iv*) if so, what were the recommendations, and how many of them were complied with;

(*v*) whether full compensation has yet been paid to the sufferers, and if not, what are the reasons for such a long delay;

(*vi*) on what basis was the compensation prepared;

(*vii*) whether any compensation has been given or is proposed to be given for loss of occupation by the poor sufferers during these six months till full compensation is paid up;

(*viii*) how many acres of land have been thrown out of *aus* cultivation for want of compensation; and

(*ix*) whether any compensation has been assessed for it?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) The exact number is not known but there were approximately 400 to 500 persons in this corps.

(*ii*) Between 250 and 300.

(*iii*) Forty-nine by the Court of Sessions. The matter is pending before the Hon'ble High Court in Appeal and Revision.

(*iv*) and (*v*) The Civil Government cannot obviously take any action against those who were either discharged or acquitted in the criminal case nor do they know what departmental action has been taken by the Military authorities.

(*c*) (*i*) The attention of Military authorities has been drawn to the matter. The result of action taken is not yet known.

(*ii*) Thirteen injured and one dead. 43 houses burnt down. 272 persons rendered homeless. The loss is estimated to amount to Rs.91,445.

(*iii*) No.

(*iv*) and (*ix*) Do not arise.

(*v*) Yes, full compensation was paid.

(*vi*) On the basis of facts elicited on local enquiry made jointly by the Civil and Military authorities.

(*vii*) This was taken into consideration while compensation was assessed.

(*viii*) None.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: With reference to answer (*b*)(*iv*) and (*v*) wherein it is stated that Government do not know what departmental action has been taken by the Military authorities, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what immediate steps have been taken to ascertain what action has been taken and if no action has yet been taken, will he put pressure upon the Military authorities to take immediate steps?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I will get it enquired into as to what steps the Military authorities have taken. As the Military Department is under the Government of India, the Government of Bengal cannot put pressure on them to do anything.

Mr. FAZLUL QUADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when was this enquiry made and whether the enquiry was made by Military and the civil authorities jointly?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I ask for notice.

Mr. FAZLUL QUADIR: When was the compensation given?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I think compensation was given some time in the middle of last year.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the result of the enquiry?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: The enquiry was actually made by the Military authorities and the report of the enquiry is lying with them.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Did Government desire to know the result of the enquiry?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: If the honourable member so desires that Government should find out the result of the enquiry, I will look into it.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware of anything about the women were raped and outraged?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Sir, I have nothing to add.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: With reference to answer (*c*)(*v*) where it is stated that full compensation was paid, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the amount paid to the relatives of the person dead?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: The details of the amount, if the honourable member will give notice of that, I will find out.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps Government took to look after the family of Hashmat Khan, the gentleman who was killed by the Military?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: If you ask about one person or two persons, it is very difficult to say. One man was killed and compensation was given to him.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: What was the amount of compensation paid?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken by the Government to educate the children whose fathers were killed or injured?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister please explain the meaning of the words "full compensation" here?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Full compensation means that after enquiry what was decided, whatever the amount was fixed, the full amount was paid.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that a committee was appointed by the Provincial Muslim League with Mr. Tamizuddin Khan, a member of the Central Legislative Assembly and myself as members and we submitted a report to the Government and what steps Government took?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Sir, I have not got any such report.

Criticism of food policy of Government.

*48. **Mr. ARABINDA GAYEN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether Government keep watch over the proceedings of the meetings organised for considering the food situation of the country, even when they are addressed by M.L.As.?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long he proposes to continue this procedure?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is the desire of the Hon'ble Minister that there should not be any discussion or organisation to criticise the present food policy of the Government?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) Ordinarily no.

(*b*) and (*d*) Do not arise.

(*c*) No.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to indicate the occasions when Government considered it necessary to keep watch over such proceedings?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Here the question is whether M.L.As. addressed the meetings for any other purpose than Legislative matters.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: With reference to answer (*a*) where it is stated "Ordinarily no", there must be certain occasions?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: In cases where we find that the meeting is going to be held for some other purpose.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to the way in which they find out when a meeting is described to be held for this particular purpose that meeting is going to be held for other purposes?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Naturally if the meeting is called for a purpose and if it is utilised for other purpose it is impossible for anybody to keep that information.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: How does Government know?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Government has got its machinery.

Allegations against Subdivisional Officer (A), Sadar, Chittagong.

*49. **Mr. RATANLAL BRAHMAN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware—

(*i*) that several workers of the Baramasia and Sujanagar Tea Gardens in Chittagong were arrested on the orders of the Subdivisional Officer (A), Sadar, in the middle of May this year;

(*ii*) that the Subdivisional Officer (A) is threatening the Communist Party with repressive measures for organising Trade Unions among the workers; and

(*iii*) that the owners of the Baramasia and Sujanagar Tea Gardens are forcibly evicting their workers from the lands which these workers have been cultivating for years by paying rents?

(*b*) Does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of holding a non-official enquiry into the conduct of the Subdivisional Officer (A), Sadar, of Chittagong in the matter?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) (*i*) None under the orders of the Subdivisional Officer (A), Sadar.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us whether any worker of the Baramasia and Sujanagar Tea Gardens was at all arrested?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Some arrested, naturally.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us under whose orders they were arrested

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Under the police officer's, not the Subdivisional Officer's.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us, if there was any criminal case started against them?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. SPEAKER: Next question.

Supplementaries to Unstarred Question No. 14 (which was carried over from 13th February, 1947).

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had put a question which was not answered because there was nobody present.

Mr. SPEAKER: You please repeat it.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: My question was this: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is the policy of the Government in making appointments of dealers and sub-dealers to whatever community they may belong to always insist upon necessary business experience?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Sir, these answers were drafted some time ago and circumstances have since then changed. The ban of 1942 has been withdrawn and according to the ban new entrants were not eligible for entering into business. New entrants, as you all know, are mostly Muslims and Scheduled Castes——

Mr. SPEAKER: Please give a reply, not a speech. You are going to deliver a speech.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister stated that circumstances have changed since the time this answer was given. Then why should that answer come in in this form and the Minister did not inform the office that the answer should be changed or something else should be done?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: This ban of 1942 has been withdrawn since then and new entrants are now welcome into the field of business.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is whether it is the policy of the Government to see that these dealers should have experience also.

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Not necessarily. You see that it is inconsistent with the answer.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: The Hon'ble Minister says that his answer is inconsistent. What can I say, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already said that the asnwer was drafted long ago and the Government policy also has changed. He says that it is not necessary that they should have business experience.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: He speaks of the ban of 1942. The question was certainly not put in 1942—it was put long after that.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have not followed him. His answer was that there was a ban that anybody who has not had any business experience before 1942 would not be allowed to have any business under the Civil Supplies Department. That ban has been withdrawn.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to when that ban was withdrawn?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I am afraid I cannot give the exact date of the withdrawal but it has been withdrawn some three months back.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many Scheduled Caste candidates applied for dealership in the Narail subdivision?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Already the number has been given over there. Of course what was the actual number of applications that were submitted, I am sorry I cannot give a reply off-hand, but the Scheduled Castes percentage has been shown there.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the requirement of necessary business experience has not been insisted upon since 1943 because if that were insisted upon a large number of Muslims would have been prevented from being appointed as dealers and sub-dealers?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I am not aware of that.

Mr. HASAN ALI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that after the withdrawal of the ban appointment of new entrants has been stopped by the District authorities?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: At least I do not know of any such instance.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why this essential pre-requisite has been discontinued?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: This ban was engineered so far as we understand to injure the interests of Scheduled Castes and Muslims and, as a matter of fact, new entrants were mostly Muslims and Scheduled Castes. The new entrants were debarred from entering the field of business. By the withdrawal of this ban they have been given an opportunity to come to business. In the public interest this ban has been withdrawn.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in appointing dealers the Food Committees are consulted?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Yes.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if experience and financial stability are not considered nowadays? What are the criteria considered?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Financial integrity and financial solvency are taken into consideration.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer just given, viz., the ban was engineered to injure the interests of Muslims and Scheduled Castes, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are his basis for this observation?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Because as a result of this ban new entrants who were mostly Muslims and Scheduled Castes were debarred from the opportunity of coming into business.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: The Hon'ble Minister has said that nowadays financial stability is not considered but financial solvency is considered. Will he state the difference between financial stability and financial solvency. (Laughter.)

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the present system of having a licence to be a dealer should not be withdrawn?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: There is no such practice. To be a dealer, licence is a pre-requisite.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether where the communal ratio has not been maintained it is the policy of Government to make new recruitments from a particular community which has not been fully represented?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: New candidates from all communities are welcome in the field of business.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: My question was whether it was not the policy of Government that where the Communal Ratio Rules have not been observed—let me be more specific—where Hindus are more and Muslims less, all new appointments should be reserved for Muslims only.

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already replied that members of all communities are welcome.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয়, অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি, এই যে 'engineer' কথাটা প্রয়োগ করা হয়েছে সেটা কে করলেন এবং কবে করলেন ?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Syama-Huq Cabinet and 93 régime.

Dr. PROTAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: On a point of order, Sir. The honourable member used the expression "Syama-Huq Cabinet". Is it parliamentary?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: The Cabinet was popularly known as such.

Dr. PROTAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: No, it was not so. I think the expression is insulting.

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I did not use it in that sense.

Dr. PROTAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: I would request the Hon'ble Speaker to expunge that expression from the proceedings.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the expression was not used in a derogatory sense.

Dr. PROTAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: The expression "Syama-Huq" must not remain in the proceedings.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee cannot be called "Syama". In that case we can call Tarak Babu as "Baba Tarak". (Laughter.)

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Sir, during the last budget session many times the expression "Syama-Huq" has been entered into the proceedings of this Assembly.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member has already said that he has not used it in a derogatory sense.

Dr. PROTAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: My submission to you, Sir, is to call Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee as "Syama" is a highly insulting expression in Bengali. It must not remain in the proceedings.

Mr. MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Sir, when Mr. Fazlul Huq formed that coalition Ministry, at that time if you refer to the proceedings of the House you will find that the Ministry was known as "Syama-Huq" Ministry not once or twice but hundreds of times throughout the proceedings.

(Cries of "No, no" from Opposition benches.)

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: By "Syama-Huq" we generally mean that Mr. Huq is of *syama barna.* (Laughter.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I wont't allow any discussion over it.

Dr. PROTAP CHANDRA ROY: But he has not withdrawn the expression.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: On a point of privilege, Sir This expression "Syama-Huq"——

(Cries of "No, no" from Opposition benches and uproar.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I won't allow any more discussion on that.

Dr. ABDUL AHAD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the 1942 order has been circulated to District Controllers and Subdivisional Controllers?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Yes, in all districts.

Dr. ABDUL AHAD: I have been told just now by one person that it has not been circulated, and Controllers and Subdivisional Controllers are not taking action on this order.

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I shall look into the matter.

Mr. KHUDA BUKHSH: Regardig the last question, lot of supplementary questions were put. I would like to request the Hon'ble Ministers to be more up-to-date with their answers.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no question.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Election of 24-Parganas District Board.

16. Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is contemplating to hold the election of the 24-Parganas District Board;

(*b*) if so, when;

(*c*) when the last election of the said District Board was held; and

(*d*) why the fresh election of the said District Board was not so long held though it is long overdue?

MINISTER in charge of the DEPARTMENT of HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) As soon as the constituencies have been delimited under the Rules for Election of District Boards by direct election.

(*c*) The existing Board was constituted in January, 1939, after indirect elections by the then existing local boards.

(*d*) Because of difficulties in delimiting the constituencies of the Board for direct elections.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: In view of the fact that reconstitution of the Board is long overdue, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is going to consider delimitation of constituencies so that election may be held within this year?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The answer is in the affirmative.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that delimitation has not been approved by Government as yet though the District Board has sent suggestions twice for delimitation?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The answer again is in the affirmative.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why delimitation has not been approved by Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The reason is there were lots of difficulties in making proper delimitation of constituencies and all points of view are being examined and considered by Government.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Wil the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the exact nature of these difficulties?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. That will take a good deal of time and it will not be commensurate with the results obtained.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when these recommendations from the district board for delimitation reached the Government and whether they were informed of the reasons for which Government were not in a position to accept delimitation?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: So far as part (1) of the question is concerned, I am afraid I must ask for notice. So far as part (2) of the question is concerned, the answer is in the negative.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is the intention of the Ministry to hold up delimitation until separate electorates are introduced?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The answer is an emphatic negative.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: In the case of the district board elections in the districts of Bankura, Midnapore——

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise out of this question which concerns the district board of 24-Parganas.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government do not want to finish delimitation in the apprehension that the majority of the seats may be captured by the minority communities?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot understand the question because of so many adjectives and such things.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister give us an approximate idea of the time as to how long Government will take to examine these recommendations and get over all the difficulties for accepting delimitation?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The first part will take six months and the second part also another six months.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: Did the Government invite public opinion in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir; for then the confusion will be worse confounded.

Carmichael Medical College, Belgachia.

17. Mr. MD. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health (Medical) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of students admitted into the Belgachia Medical College in 1946;

(*b*) the number of Muslim students admitted in the College in 1946; and

(*c*) whether the College gets any grant or help from the Government?

MINISTER in charge of the DEPARTMENT of HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*) One hundred and thirty.

(*b*) Nil.

(c) The Carmichael Medical College and Hospital, Belgachia, gets an annual recurring grant of Rs.50,000 from Government—Rs.15,000 for the College and Rs.35,000 for the Hospital.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government considers the desirability to enquire into the fact that Muslim applicants were categorically denied admission into the Carmichael Medical College?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware whether Muslim students were denied admission, but it is a fact that Muslim students are almost negligible in number.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: It is nil.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: No. There are at present two students and the matter has been referred to the authorities of the Carmichael Medical College. We have stressed the point that the institution must admit Muslim students in larger number if it is to continue to receive Government patronage.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that when students applied for seats in this college, they are not admitted until and unless they pay Rs. 1,000 as subscription?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of that.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister please ascertain the number of Muslim students who applied for admission to the Carmichael Medical College?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of the number of students who applied for admission but when we referred the matter to the college authority there were two applicants for admission and they were both admitted.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us if any report regarding rejection of application of any candidate for admission was brought to the notice of Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I received information that some Muslim students were refused admission.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Did the Hon'ble Minister enquire into the facts of the case and, if so, with what result? What were the educational qualifications of those candidates who were refused admission?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: They were second division students and it was brought to my notice that the college authorities cannot admit second division students.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Are the Government aware that many first division students with Biology as their subject could not secure admission either into the Medical College, Calcutta, or in the Carmichael Medical College?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of the fact that first division students with Biology were refused admission in the Carmichael Medical College, because it is a private institution financially aided by Government, and Government have no administrative control over that institution.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many second division and third division students were admitted into the Carmichael Medical College during the last five years?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know.

Acquisition of lands by Government at Konnagar, Hooghly, for a private company.

18. Mr. RAMHARI RAY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Industries Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government contemplate to acquire for a particular company by the strength of Land Acquisition Act some bighas of cultivated lands appertaining to the mouzas Konnagar, Makhla, etc., in the district of Hooghly for the construction of workshops on those cultivated lands?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the name of the company?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that general protest meetings for the attempts to acquire the cultivated lands for the purpose were held by the inhabitants of Makhla, Belghoria, Nimta, Basudevpur and neighbouring mouzas?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, he is proposing to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Certain lands in mouzas Konnagar, Makhla, etc., in the district of Hooghly have been notified for acquisition under the Land Acquisition Act for a company for establishment of a factory to manufacture motor cars, a new industry in this country, on the recommendation of the Collector and the Commissioner of the Division concerned. The Collector has as usual been directed to submit reports under sections 5A and 40 of the Land Acquisition Act, after making enquiry and hearing objections as required by the Act, through the Commissioner. Those reports have not yet been received and Government are not therefore in a position to know whether the project contains cultivated land or not.

(*b*) Hindusthan Motor Corporation, Ltd. (of Messrs. Birla Brothers).

(*c*) A petition from the inhabitants of the villages concerned has been received by Government.

(*d*) The said petition will be considered along with the reports referred to in (*a*).

Mr. RAM HARI ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to answer (*c*), whether the petition contained a statement that cultivable lands have been notified for acquisition under the Land Acquisition Act?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: The petition contained that statement as you will find from the answer that the Collector has, as usual, been directed to submit a report under sections 5A and 40 of the Land Acquisition Act after making enquiry and hearing objections as required by the Act through the Commissioner. So until the report comes, we cannot say anything.

Mr. RAM HARI ROY: Does the Hon'ble Minister disbelieve the contents of the statement?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I have nothing further to add.

Bengal Secondary Education Bill.

19. Mr. MOBARAK ALI AHMED: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether the Secondary Education Bill will be introduced in the Bengal Legislative Assembly in its current session?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when it is likely to be introduced in the Legislative Assembly?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: It is proposed to introduce the Bengal Secondary Education Bill in this session of the Assembly.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Bill has actually been drafted?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: Yes.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the main items in the Bill?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, that he cannot do.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Calcutta University has rejected the report drawn up by Dr. Zuberi?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: That is not a fact.

STARRED QUESTION

(to which oral answer was given)

Sub-Inspectors of Schools in Dacca district.

***50. Mr. DHANANJOY ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Sub-Inspectors of Schools are at present serving in Dacca district;

(*b*) how many of them are—

(*i*) Muslims,

(*ii*) Caste Hindus, and

(*iii*) Scheduled Castes;

(*c*) whether there is any Scheduled Caste Sub-Inspector of Schools in that district; and

(*d*) if not, do the Government consider it desirable to appoint Sub-Inspector of Schools from the Scheduled Castes at an early date?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQUE (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain): (*a*) Eighteen.

(*b*) (*i*) Fourteen; (*ii*) four; and (*iii*) nil.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Yes, it has already been decided to post a Scheduled Caste B.A.B.T. as Sub-Inspector of Schools in the Dacca district and steps are being taken to give effect to that decision by the Inspector of Schools, Dacca Range.

(Starred question No. 51 was called.)

Mr. K. NASARULLA: May I ask you, Sir, to hold over this question as the papers relevant to this question have been sent to the Calcutta Disturbances Enquiry Commission?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have no objection. Questions over.

(Starred question No. 51 was accordingly held over.)

Point of Privilege.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, on a point of privilege, Sir, আমাদের প্রশ্নের উত্তর দেওয়া হয় যে দিন, সেই দিনই পরিষদে ইহা উত্থাপিত ও আলোচিত হয়। আমাদের যখন supplementary questions করবার অধিকার ও প্রয়োজন আছে, তখন এই উত্তরগুলি অন্ততঃ দুই দিন পূর্বে যদি দেওয়া হয়, তাহলে আমাদের supplementary questions করার বিশেষ সুবিধা হয়। এ সম্বন্ধে গত অধিবেশনে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় আমাদের আশা দিয়াছিলেন যে এ সম্পর্কে তিনি বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা করবেন, কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় এখনও পর্যান্ত কিছু করা হয় নাই।

Mr. SPEAKER: But so far as today's questions are concerned I think honourable members had sufficient time to go through them because we have taken up yesterday's questions today. So far as the next day's questions are concerned we have already supplied the copies of answers and I think that complaint cannot hold good for this occasion.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, আজ না হয় এটা হয়ে গিয়েছে accidentally! কিন্তু generally তা হয় না। ভবিষ্যতে কি question গুলি আগে দেবার ব্যবস্থা হবে?

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall look to that.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Speaker, I think it is not possible for you to accede to the request of the honourable member because the rule provides that questions and answers in printed form will be laid on the table at least an hour or half an hour before the Assembly meets—one hour before on the Library Table and half an hour before here. So that has been the practice followed in this Legislature since its inception and I see no justification for you to deviate from the practice followed so long.

Non-official Members' Resolution.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Bengal should represent to the Government of India to undertake, without further delay, in consultation with the District Board of Pabna and other statutory local bodies connected with the scheme, a detailed investigation into the Ishurdi-Pabna-Sadhuganj Railway project and make connection up to the Pabna Town in order to avoid competition with Ishurdi-Pabna motor traffic and thereafter construction of the same may be taken up if found remunerative.

Sir, it is a matter of great delight on my part to have this opportunity of moving a resolution on a subject of far-reaching economic and social importance to the entire rural and urban population of a district, viz., Pabna, which has tremendous possibilities of industrial growth before it. Sir, in fact, economic development and consequent rural welfare and general development of the town and the district of Pabna largely, if not solely, hinges upon this project. Sufferings of the people of all sections due to chronic lack of transport facilities and travel facilities and communication difficulties are much acute and manifold.

Sir, commercial life of the district is hopelessly crippled. The traders, the merchants, the industrialists are daily, constantly confronted with

various difficulties in the matter of carrying on their trade due to serious difficulties in the system of communication. Sir, of course in certain routes and during some part of the year some buses and trucks ply and carry on business, but really these buses and trucks cannot replace the widely felt need for a railway. Of course, the passenger traffic from Ishurdi to Pabna may be served by the bus service to some extent but not the ever increasing volume of goods traffic that takes place on that route. So, Sir, it is the natural demand, spontaneous demand of the Pabna people of all colours and creeds for the economic relief, economic betterment and easier transport facilities and fair facilities of travel, that has taken a concrete shape in this resolution. In fact, I am voicing the demand of the whole district.

Sir, some time back it was rightly emphasised by the Pabna District Muslim League in a resolution of theirs that Pabna is a district of which 75 per cent. of the population are Muslims and it will remain cut off from the centre of civilisation due to non-construction of this railway line. In this connection I may recall to my mind the event of the Pabna and Natore District Muslim League Conference held at Chatmohar under the Presidency of no less a person than the present Chief Minister of Bengal. There also in a resolution that conference urged the urgent and imperative necessity of constructing that railway.

Sir, it is regretable indeed that in spite of this universal support and universal expression of good will behind this project, the proposal has not yet materialised. This resolution is based on demands of various public bodies—the District Board, Municipality, Bar Association, Muktear Association, People's Association, Passengers' Association, Civil Supplies Syndicate and all other public bodies of Pabna. It is a wholly non-controversial resolution I am happy to observe.

Sir, the project of a railway line over this part of the country is an old one. It is pending since 1910. There is a history behind it. Several preliminary surveys and exploratory surveys took place at different times but progress stopped for some reason or other. Sir, let me give a brief account of the different stages of the enquiries held by different authorities at different times.

In 1910 the first survey was held. In 1914-15 a reconnaissance survey was taken from Ishurdi *via* Pabna to Sadhuganj. Then a detailed survey was held in 1916 and the result of this survey was to the effect that this line was considered to be a paying one. It was considered to be a good business proposition from the railway authority standpoint and that report was endorsed by Mr. Van Someren, the then Traffic Manager of the E. B. R. who was himself interested in that scheme and construction was recommended but World War No. I interrupted further progress.

On 6th February, 1922, a resolution was passed in the Bengal Council and that resolution was moved by the then Chairman of the Pabna District Board, Mr. Wasiuddin Ahmed, who was a member of the Council and that resolution was accepted by the Council. In 1924 under the instruction of the Railway Board the Agent, E. B. Ry., investigated into the matter and the Railway Board observed in that connection that the line promised to be remunerative.

Then again, Sir, Mr. Bhandarkar, the then D. T. S. of the E. B. Ry. and at present General Manager of the Bengal Assam Railway, held an investigation in 1925. Mr. Bhandarkar's opinion was not favourable in all respects but he opined clearly that this project should be taken up by the Government after the Natore-Nachoul and Dinajpur Ruhia projects were accepted. Then the E. B. Ry. Agent's report to the Railway Board was to the effect that the construction of this project—Pabna-Sadhuganj Project—should be taken up after the above-mentioned two railways are constructed; and in the meantime Dinajpur-Ruhia and Natore-Nachoul Railways have already been constructed about two decades ago.

Then, Sir, the difficulties as were visualised by Mr. Bhandarkar are non-existent now. The river Ganges has receded far away from the town. There was no other difficulty likely to involve the new Railway in the town. Rather due to stoppage of certain steamer service now serious dislocation of trade and traffic has taken place inside the district. I am quoting Mr. Bhandarkar's observation as to the prospect of this Railway:

> "The portion of the district through which the railway line will pass is thickly populated and is rich in agriculture, it will tap a fairly big jute area as also seed, sugarcane and turmeric. For the first fifteen miles the country is high and from Dulai to Kashinathpur the country is higher. The drainage of the country is from west to east and the rivers flow mostly in that direction. There are a number of *hats* along the line."

From all this it appears that this line is sure to prove remunerative. In the meantime, rapid industrial development has taken place. Many small mills have sprung up in the district of Pabna. In December, 1928, Mr. Edwards, Engineer-in-Chief, Surveys and Construction, E. B. Railway, in his reinvestigation report on this project on its final alignment, estimated that it would cost Rs. 41,72,000 and earn an annual income of Rs. 2,68,000, the rate of return on the capital outlay being over 6·2 per annum, and reported this project to be a good business proposition. Then, Sir, the then Agent, E. B. Railway, in his letter No. 684C/W/51/15/28 to the Chairman, District Board of Pabna, told that board that the satisfactory results of reinvestigation made the possibility of its construction much more hopeful. Then the matter was taken up and discussed by the Local Advisory Committee, E. B. Railway, which met on the 27th July, 1928. The project was discussed and construction was approved unanimously. It was also given out at this meeting that its construction had also been recommended by the Government of Bengal and the Railway Board was approached for necessary sanction. Then, Sir, it may be pointed out also that before this railway project was first entertained by the Railway Authorities in 1913, Messrs. Martin & Co. agreed to construct a light railway up to Pabna and a guarantee of 4 per cent. interest was given by the district board; but the project was abandoned as the Government took up the railway project themselves. In 1924 a petition was submitted to the Government for financial assistance and a guarantee of 5 per cent. interest on the capital outlay for the purpose of forming a public limited company by private enterprise, but the publication of the Ackworth Committee had put a stop to it.

From 1924 onwards district board and municipal commissioners of Pabna have adopted a series of resolutions pointing out the necessity and urging upon the construction of this railway in no time.

Sir, this line will improve the economic condition in various ways. It will not damage crops. It will further improve the productivity of the crop. It will not injure adversely the health and sanitation. It would farther the interests of trade and agriculture and it would offer marketing facilities to the people in an increasing measure. Sir, in the Central Assembly Mr. A. C. Dutt sought to move a resolution, but it was not discussed afterwards. Mr. Kumar Sankar Ray moved a resolution in the Council of State. That resolution was accepted. In that connection Sir Guthrie Russel, the then Chief Commissioner for Railways, stated that if the Bengal Government could be persuaded to pay for the cost of investigation, the Government of India was certainly prepared to carry that investigation out. It was pointed out to the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division by a deputation of the people of Pabna which waited on him on 23rd August, 1938, that motor buses and trucks can never replace the need for railway. Then a deputation was sent to the Communication and Finance Ministers at Darjeeling in October, 1938, and some Hon'ble Ministers visited the Pabna town, and had a discussion with the representatives of public bodies there about this

project and they said that they would sympathetically look into the problem. Then, Sir, the Secretary, War Transport Department, in his letter, dated 20th May, 1944, urged upon the Passengers' Association, Pabna, to draw attention to the matter again as soon as the War comes to an end. The Secretary, Railway Board, in his letter, dated 11th May, 1944, repeated the assurance already given that the project in question would be considered in due course in connection with the B. A. Railway's Post-war Reconstruction Schemes. The District Magistrate of Pabna in his letter to the Pabna Passengers' Association No. 3526G., dated 27th May, 1944, stated that "the Ishurdi-Pabna-Sadhuganj Railway project had been included in my recommendations for post-war reconstruction of railways and it has been given the first priority". The Secretary, Communications and Works Department, in his letter No. 1426R., dated 27th May, 1944, informed the said Association that the Railway Board had agreed to consider the proposal in connection with the post-war reconstruction. A deputation in connection with this project waited on the then Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Communication and Works Department of the Government of Bengal, and the Railway Planning Sub-Committee of the Government of Bengal adopted this project on 23rd March, 1945. Then, Sir, on the 4th February, 1946, the Railway Board, Government of India, wrote a letter to the Pabna Passengers' Association to the effect that "the Railway authorities are in such cases largely influenced by the recommendations of the Provincial Government. Your proposal for the construction of the line should be made to the Provincial Government". Sir, very recently this matter was referred to the Railway Department of the Government of India by the Secretary to the Passengers' Association, Pabna, and the Secretary, Railway Board wrote to the Secretary to say that "I am to say that the new construction plans of the Central Government have been formulated after full discussion with Provincial Government and that the above project has not been recommended by the Bengal Government in their post-war railway plan. I am accordingly to suggest that your representation should be made to the Bengal Government in the first instance. If this project is now favourably considered by the latter and recommended for investigation, it will be given due consideration."

Sir, this is the history of this project in short. I am sure the Government of India are prepared to accept this project provided favourable recommendation is sent by the Government of Bengal in favour of this project. I hope, Sir, this House will accept this project and the Government of Bengal will take immediate action in this matter and try to influence the Government of India to accept this project in no time.

With these words, Sir, I commend my resolution to the acceptance of this House.

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had a resolution of the same type, and without moving a separate resolution I would like to support the one moved by the member on the other side. Have I that permission, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: Pabna is the only district in the whole province which is not connected with railway and steamer services. This project—Pabna-Ishurdi-Sadhuganj railway line—has been hanging fire since 1910. Regular survey was made in 1914-15-16 on which the then investigating officer—I do not remember his name—submitted his report saying that it would be very convenient and that the project should be taken up. But unfortunately for us then came the war. During the war nothing could be done. That was War No. 1. After the war when the India Government was not doing anything it was in the year 1922 that the then Chairman of the District Board, Khan Bahadur Wasiuddin Ahmed, moved a resolution in the old Council. This was accepted by the Provincial

Government and a recommendation was made to the India Government to take up the project. But unfortunately one Mr. Vandarkar was appointed the investigating officer. He investigated into the case and reported that it would be a losing concern, if accepted and put into operation, and this led the Government of India to shelve the project. Then there were protests from the local people, and it was pointed out that the only reason for Mr. Vandarkar to arrive at that decision or conclusion was, according to his own saying, that country boats which used to go far up the river up to Monghyr and even in the interior, would affect the earnings of the railway. This was the reason, Sir, which prompted him to say that it would affect the income of the railway, and so the project was rejected. He, however, said that the project might be taken up after the Nator-Nachol and the Dinajpur-Balurghat railways had been completed. This Nator-Nachol section is now known as the Amnura branch, and these two projects have been completed, but nothing has so far been done for this Pabna-Ishurdi project. Sir, nothing has been done in spite of the strong representation of the district board and the local people and the recommendation of the Provincial Government. At that time I happened to be the Chairman of the district board and suggested that the district board would be prepared to take up the work. The Government of India accepted this suggestion put forward by me on behalf of the district board with this stipulation that the work might be taken up by the district board and a narrow gauge line might be constructed with this provision that the alignments should be made sufficiently wide for broad guage lines to be constructed in future. Sir, this would involve huge expenditure, and the district board was not able to take it up. So that project had to be dropped. Then there was an agitation all round the district and a deputation went to the then Hon'ble Minister of Finance headed by the late Hon'ble Mr. Kumar Sankar Ray. As a result of that agitation the then Minister came to Pabna and gave us hopes that we would see that the project was accepted and put into operation as early as possible. Sir, that was in 1939, but unfotunately then came the war and the whole matter had to be shelved.

Then again, Sir, in 1944 we approached the Railway Board and I tried enough to get a hearing. At that time I was told that our project was proposed to be taken up after the Jagannathganj-Aricha line was completed. But thereafter we were definitely told that the Government of India would not recommend to the Railway Board to take up our project. Then there was agitation again but in 1946 the Financial Commissioner and the Chief Commissioner of Railways refused to sanction the scheme again. The people of Pabna also refused to take this decision lying down and we were then informed on the 4th April, 1946, that the Railway Board could not take any initiative unless and until it was forwarded with the recommendation of the Provincial Government. Since then we have been finding out ways and means to move the Provincial Government, and it is with a view to strengthening the hands of the Provincial Government that we have brought this resolution in the Legislature. So, Sir, I wholeheartedly support the resolution and urge upon this Legislature and the Provincial Government to recommend this project to the Government of India and the Railway Board that the project be taken up at once.

In this connection I may point out that the original project was a line from Sadhuganj to Ishurdi *via* Pabna. It has since been altered, and it has been proposed to terminate it at Bera. The last time I had the honour to meet the Railway Standing Committee and I suggested that the terminus be at Nagarbari. That would be directly up to river Jamuna and if a ferry service be maintained between Nagarbari and Aricha, the journey from Dacca to Calcutta would be reduced by six hours. Instead of going *via* Goalundo a passenger can reach Nagarbari in the morning and reach Dacca from there in one and a half hours' time. This distance is not more than 45 miles.

Sir, we believe it is the Steamer Company which is putting all hindrances to this project, because they know that if it is accepted the Goalundo Steamer Service would be ruined for ever. I hope the Government of Bengal would kindly bring to the notice of the Government of India that this project has been hanging fire for decades and that it should be taken in hand and completed as soon as possible.

With these words I support the resolution moved by my friend, Mr. Manoranjan Dhar.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, Manoranjan Dhar মহাশয় যে প্রস্তাব এখানে উপস্থাপিত করেছেন আমি সে প্রস্তাব সমর্থন করি। দেখা যাচ্ছে এটা একটা Railway line করার সম্বন্ধে প্রস্তাব করা হয়েছে এবং যাঁরা এখানে উপস্থিত আছেন তাঁরা যেন এটার জন্য বিশেষ interest নিচ্ছেন না বলে মনে হচ্ছে। কিন্তু কাপড়ের দুরবস্থার কথা তাঁরা ভুলে যাবেন না, যখন তাঁদের পরিবারের উত্তমাঙ্গ আবৃত করবার জন্য কিছু পাওয়া দুষ্কর ছিল তখন পাবনা জেলা কত গেঞ্জি সমস্ত বাংলায় সরবরাহ করেছিল। পাবনা জেলার এক প্রান্ত হতে অপর প্রান্ত পর্য্যন্ত তাঁতে কত কাপড় তৈরী হয়। মুসলমানদের বুক্তি ও হিন্দু মুসলমান বমণীদের শাড়ী কাপড় পাবনা হতে বহু পরিমাণে দেশের সর্ব্বত্র বিক্রী হয়ে থাকে। সুতরাং পাবনার ব্যাপারে আপনাদের একটু মনোযোগ দেওয়া খুবই দরকার। এই যে Railwayর প্রস্তাবটি উপস্থাপিত হয়েছে তাতে হিন্দু মুসলমান, ধনী দরিদ্র, পুরুষ বমণী সকলেরই সমান আগ্রহ থাকা উচিত। সুতরাং এই প্রস্তাবটির বিরুদ্ধে কারো কোন আপত্তি থাকতে পারে না; সকলেই একবাক্যে এটা গ্রহণ করবেন। তবে কথা হচ্ছে সরকার বাহাদুর কি করবেন? আমরা তো তাঁর ঘাড়ে কোন টাকার ভার চাপাতে যাব না। কেন না Railwayর যা খরচ বহন করতে হয় তা Central Governmentই করে থাকেন। মধ্যে থেকে পাবনা জেলাটার কিছু উন্নতি হয়ে যায়। লোকের হাতে যদি এই ব্যবস্থা দ্বারা কিছু টাকা হয়ে যায় তাতে অনেক দিক দিয়েই ভাল হবে। Provincial গভর্ণমেণ্টই ও কিছু টাকা পাইবেন income-taxএর কিছু ভাগ পাইলেও পাইতে পারেন। সুতরাং আশা করি আপনারা কোনও আপত্তি করবেন না, তবে কথা হচ্ছে সকলে মিলে গভর্ণমেণ্টকে বোঝাতে হবে। সকলে মিলে এই প্রস্তাবটি গ্রহণ করতে হবে এবং সরকার বাহাদুর যাতে এটা Central গভর্ণমেণ্টকে পাঠিয়ে দেয় তার ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে; তাহলেই কাজ হবে। সুতরাং বক্তৃতার কোন প্রয়োজন নাই, গেঞ্জী, কাপড়ের কৃতজ্ঞতা স্বরূপ আপনারা অনুগ্রহ করে সকলে এই প্রস্তাবটি সমর্থন করবেন আশা করি।

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARKA NATH BARORY: Sir, the proposed railway project was examined by experts and found beset with various difficulties from the view-points of experts. I, however, realise that if the project materialises the travelling public will be benefited. So, the Government have decided not to oppose this resolution.

The motion of Mr. Manoranjan Dhar that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Bengal should represent to the Government of India to undertake, without further delay, in consultation with the District Board of Pabna and other statutory local bodies connected with the scheme, a detailed investigation into the Ishurdi-Pabna-Sadhuganj Railway project and make connection up to the Pabna Town in order to avoid competition with Ishurdi-Pabna motor traffic and thereafter construction of the same may be taken up if found remunerative was then put and agreed to.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: I beg to move the resolution standing in my name that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Bengal should make immediate steps to amend the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885 and the Bengal Village Self-Government Act of 1919 so that all females of the age of 21 years or more who are literate, or who pay the requisite amount of union rate or chowkidari tax or road cess as required under the Acts to qualify themselves to be voters or members or whose husbands or fathers, or guardians, as the case may be, are qualified by these Acts to be voters or members, shall be entitled to be voters or members of the institutions set up by these Acts.

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমার আলোচ্য প্রস্তাব হ'ল মহিলাদের ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডে এবং জেলা বোর্ডে ভোটাধিকার সম্বন্ধে। আমাদের বাংলা দেশের আইন পরিষদগুলিতে এবং কলিকাতা কর্পোরেশনে—চাই কি বাংলার বিভিন্ন মিউনিসিপ্যাল শহরগুলিতে মহিলাদের ভোটাধিকার আছে। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডে এবং জেলা বোর্ডে মহিলাদের কোন ভোটাধিকার নাই। বাংলা দেশে প্রায় ৮০ হাজার গ্রাম, এবং দেশবাসীর প্রায় ৮০।৯০ জন হ'ল এই গ্রামবাসী। গ্রামবাসীদের দৈনন্দিন জীবন যে দুটি প্রতিষ্ঠানের শাসনের দ্বারা নিত্য নিয়ন্ত্রিত হয়ে থাকে তা হ'ল ইউনিয়ন বোর্ড আর জেলা বোর্ড। একটা সমাজের বা একটা রাষ্ট্রের বা একটা জাতির উন্নতি নির্ভর করে তার রাষ্ট্রজীবন এবং জাতীয় জীবনের বিকাশের উপর; অথচ যে দেশে শতকরা আশীর অর্দ্ধেকের উপর এই মহিলা সমাজ তারা প্রাথমিক অধিকার অর্থাৎ গ্রাম্য স্বায়ত্তশাসন বা ইউনিয়ন বোর্ড এবং জেলা বোর্ডে প্রতিনিধি পাঠাতে পারেন না এটা সত্যই আমাদের জাতীয় জীবনের পক্ষে এবং সমাজ জীবনের পক্ষে তথা ব্যক্তিগত জীবনের পক্ষে অত্যন্ত ক্ষতিকর। বর্ত্তমান যুগ গণতন্ত্রের যুগ, গণজাগরণের যুগ, গণশক্তির যুগ। পৃথিবীর বিভিন্ন দেশে এবং বিভিন্ন সমাজে যে ওলটপালট চলেছে তা এই জনজাগরণের জন্য। এই জাগরণের মূলশক্তি হ'ল গণশক্তি বা গণের মধ্যে শিক্ষা। আমরা—যারা এখানে এসেছি—আমরা বেশ জানি যে কোন নির্ব্বাচনের সময় মানুষের মধ্যে যে শিক্ষা বিস্তার হয়ে থাকে অন্য কোন সময় জাতীয় জীবন উদ্বুদ্ধ করবার জন্য বা জাতির শিক্ষার মূল ভিত্তিকে পাকা করবার জন্য এমন প্রচার হয়ে উঠে না। তাই জাতির বা সমাজের যাঁরা অর্দ্ধেক অর্থাৎ এই মহিলা সমাজ তাঁদের এই অধিকার থেকে বঞ্চিত করার ফলে জাতীয় চেতনা এবং রাষ্ট্রীয় চেতনা বিকাশের স্তরকে আমরা এতদিন রোধ কোরে রেখেছি। আমি পূর্ব্বেই বলেছি এই আইন সভার জন্য, কলিকাতা কর্পোরেশনের জন্য বা বাংলার শহরগুলির মিউনিসিপ্যালিটির জন্য মহিলাদের ভোটের অধিকার আছে। আপনারা একবার বিবেচনা করুন এই আইন সভার সদস্যা কোন মহিলা তিনি ব্যবস্থা পরিষদে আসতে পারেন, কর্পোরেশনে যেতে পারেন কিন্তু ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের মেম্বর হতে পারেন না, বা তার নির্ব্বাচনে অংশ গ্রহণ করতে পারেন না। এর চেয়ে অদৃষ্টের পরিহাস আর কি হতে পারে। তাই আমি বলব যেন মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় মহিলাদের ভোটের অধিকারের বিশেষভাবে সুবিধা কোরে দেন। অবশ্য উচ্চ পরিষদে তিনি এ বিষয়টা বিবেচনা করতে গিয়ে বলেছেন যে যদি মহিলাদিগকে ভোটের যোগ্যতা সম্বন্ধে প্রস্তাবে যে ভাবে উল্লিখিত হয়েছে সেই ভাবে ভোটের অধিকার দেওয়া যায় ভোটারের সংখ্যা অনেক বেড়ে যাবে এবং এজন্য অনেক খরচ হবে। এই হ'ল তাঁর একটা যুক্তি। সরকার পক্ষের এ যুক্তি শোভন হতে পারে কিন্তু আমরা দেখি আমাদের ভাগ্য এ রকম যে দেশে শিক্ষা নাই অথচ পুলিশ আছে, স্বাস্থ্য নাই অথচ সার্জেন্ট আছে, সাপ্লাই নাই অথচ সিভিল সাপ্লাই আফিস আছে, রাষ্ট্র নাই I. B. আছে এবং সেজন্য কোটি কোটি টাকা খরচও হচ্ছে। অথচ যে টাকা জাতির রাষ্ট্র চেতনাকে উদ্বুদ্ধ করবার জন্যও একটা জাতির চরম বিকাশের পথে নিয়ে যাবার জন্য যা সকলের চেয়ে সহায়ক সে টাকা নাই। রাষ্ট্রীক শিক্ষা বিস্তারের জন্য বহু টাকা খরচ হওয়া বাঞ্ছনীয় এটা মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের বিশেষ বিচার্য্য বিষয় হওয়া উচিত।

আর একটা কথা আমি বলতে চাই। আমি যতদূর জানি তাতে বলতে পারি শুধু এক বাংলা দেশ আর আসাম ছাড়া ভারতের অন্যান্য সমস্ত প্রদেশে মহিলাদের জেলা বোর্ড ও ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডে ভোটের অধিকার আছে। আমি তাঁকে বোম্বাইয়ে যে Act রয়েছে সে সম্বন্ধে বলছি, সেখানে ভোটের জন্য কি ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে। সেখানে এই গ্রাম্য স্বায়ত্ত-শাসন অর্থাৎ ইউনিয়ন বোর্ড বা জেলা বোর্ডে ভোটের অধিকারের যে যোগ্যতা দেওয়া হয়েছে তা এই—

Section 7 of the Bombay Village Panchayets Act, 1933, says, "All adult persons who ordinarily reside in the village and all adult persons who own in the village a house assessed to house tax or land assessed to cess under section 93 of the Bombay Local Boards Act, 1923, shall be entitled to vote at the election."

আমরা অনেক সময় বোলে থাকি বাংলা যা করে সারা ভারত বিশ ত্রিশ বছর পরে তাই করে, কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় বাংলার বাহিরে অন্যান্য প্রদেশ মহিলাদের ভোটের অধিকার দেওয়ার দিক থেকে যখন এগিয়ে চলে গেছে তখন আমাদের বাংলার পক্ষে এটা অত্যন্ত লজ্জার বিষয় যে আমরা আমাদের মহিলা সমাজকে আজও এই ন্যায্য অধিকার থেকে বঞ্চিত ক'রে রেখেছি। আমি আপনাদের বিচার করতে বলব, আমাদের রাষ্ট্র জীবনের এবং জাতীয় জীবনের সর্ব্বাঙ্গীন উন্নতির জন্য যে রাষ্ট্র চেতনার প্রয়োজন সেই রাষ্ট্র চেতনা থেকে সমাজের অর্দ্ধেকের বেশী যদি

বঞ্চিত থাকে তবে আমাদের কি ব্যক্তিগত জীবন, কি সমাজ জীবন, কি রাষ্ট্রিক জীবন, কি জাতীয় জীবন—কোনটাই কোন দিন পরিপূর্ণ হ'তে পারবে না। আর তা হ'লে পর আমরা হয়ে থাক্‌ব পঙ্গু, আমরা হয়ে থাক্‌ব অচল, আমরা হয়ে থাক্‌ব অক্ষম, আমরা হয়ে থাক্‌ব নির্জীব। তাই সমাজকে সবল করতে হ'লে, সজীব করতে হলে, সক্রিয় ও প্রাণবন্ত করতে হলে সমাজের যারা অর্দ্ধেক—অর্থাৎ এই মহিলা সমাজ—তাঁদের ন্যায্য অধিকার থেকে বঞ্চিত রেখে আমরা যে অন্যায় করেছি আজ সেই অধিকারকে স্বীকার কোরে আমাদের কৃত পাপের প্রায়শ্চিত্ত করতে হবে। আমরা তাঁদের যে অধিকার দিতে চাই সেটা দানের মনোবৃত্তি নিয়ে নয়, মহিলা সমাজকে তার অধিকার দিয়ে জাতি হিসাবে আমরা উন্নত হব এই জন্য। জ্ঞানের দিক দিয়ে, শিক্ষার দিক দিয়ে, শাসনতন্ত্র পরিচালনার দিক দিয়ে যে ক্ষতি হয়েছে সেই ক্ষতির পূরণ করতে হবে। একথা অস্বীকার করবার উপায় নাই যে যোগ্য ক্ষেত্র পেলে দুনিয়ার মাঝে কেবল ভারতবর্ষে নয়, ভারতীয় মহিলা রাষ্ট্র পরিচালনা করবার মত রাজনৈতিক জ্ঞানের পরিচয় যে দিতে পারেন তা শ্রদ্ধেয় বিজয়লক্ষ্মী পণ্ডিত, শ্রদ্ধেয় সরোজিনী নাইডু প্রমুখ ভারতের পূজনীয়া নারীদের থেকে খুব ভালভাবেই প্রমাণিত হয়ে গেছে। আজ তাই উচিত বাংলার সর্বাঙ্গীণ মঙ্গলের জন্য, তার সমাজ জীবন, রাষ্ট্র জীবন ও জাতীয় জীবনের পরিপূর্ণতা ও পরিপুষ্টির জন্য আজও যারা সমাজে বঞ্চিত হয়ে রয়েছে শিক্ষা দীক্ষা থেকে, তাদের সেই অধিকার প্রত্যর্পণ করা। আমি প্রথমেই বলেছি এবং এই আইন সভার প্রত্যেক সদস্যই বেশ জানেন যে শিক্ষার সকলের চেয়ে ব্যাপক ক্ষেত্র হয় নির্বাচনের সময়। সে সময় যে শিক্ষাবিস্তৃতি ঘটে থাকে সারা বৎসরে গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষ থেকে কোটি কোটি টাকা খরচ কোরে তার শতাংশের একাংশও হয় না। কাজেই এই সমাজকে শিক্ষায় উন্নত করবার জন্য মহিলাদের ভোটের দিকে তাদের দৃষ্টি দেওয়া দরকার। আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে অনুরোধ করব যে গোবীসেনের টাকা যদি এদিকে কিছু চলে যায় তাহলে প্রকৃতই যেখানে সমাজের কাজ হবে সেখানেই টাকা খরচ হবে। ভোটারের সংখ্যা বেশী হবে এই অছিলায় টাকা খরচ করতে কার্পণ্য কোরে মহিলা সমাজকে বঞ্চিত কোরে রাখার মানে আমাদের সমগ্র সমাজকে বঞ্চিত কোরে রাখা।

আর একটা কথা বলছি--মহিলারা নাকি বেশী সংখ্যায় ভোট দিতে আসেন না। কিন্তু আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে জানাতে চাই যে হালে মেদিনীপুরে যে municipal election হয়ে গেছে তাতে সেখানে যতগুলি মহিলার ভোট ছিল তার শতকরা ৯০ জন ভোট দিয়ে গেছেন। তাঁর সময় থাক্‌লে আমি তাঁকে একবার বাঁকুড়া জেলায় নিয়ে গিয়ে দেখাতে পারতাম যে এক একটি নির্বাচনে শতকরা কত ভাগ মহিলা সেখানে ভোট দেন। কাজেই আজকের দিনে কম সংখ্যক মহিলা ভোট দিতে আসেন এ আপত্তি চল্‌তে পারে না। আমার বক্তব্য শেষ করবার পূর্বে আমি প্রত্যেককে বলে অনুরোধ করব যে এ প্রস্তাব গৃহীত হ'লে কোন সম্প্রদায় বিশেষের স্বার্থলাভ হবে এ চিন্তা যেন করবেন না। এটা শতকরা বা হারাহারির ইতর বিশেষের প্রশ্ন নয়। যে কোন সময় কোন সমাজের সত্যকারের রাষ্ট্রীয় জীবনের পরিপূর্ণ পরিপুষ্টির প্রয়োজন হয়েছে তখনই এই মহিলাদের শক্তির সাহায্য নিয়েই তা করা সম্ভব হয়েছে। আর দেখুন রাষ্ট্র-জীবনের প্রথম পাঠ সুরু হয় ইউনিয়ন বোর্ড এবং জেলা বোর্ডে। কাজেই আমরা সত্যিকারের একটা পূর্ণাঙ্গ রাষ্ট্র জীবন গড়ে তুলতে চাইলে এ প্রদেশের যে শতকরা ৮০ জন গ্রামে বাস করেন এবং তাঁদের গ্রাম্য জীবন শাসিত হয় যে দুটি প্রতিষ্ঠান দিয়ে অর্থাৎ এই জেলা বোর্ড এবং ইউনিয়ন বোর্ড--তাতে সমাজের যারা অর্দ্ধেক তাদের ভোটাধিকার দিলে পর প্রকৃতপক্ষে আমরা রাষ্ট্র জীবন গড়ে তুলবার পক্ষে সহায়তা করব।

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Roy, you will please finish within two minutes, because the House has to be adjourned for prayers.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: Yes, Sir.

এই বোলে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে এবং সরকার পক্ষের সকল সদস্যকে অনুরোধ করব--আমার প্রস্তাব যেন গৃহণ করা হয়।

Mr. SPEAKER: The House will now adjourn for prayers. Mrs. Sen will speak after prayers.

(At this stage the house was adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mrs. ASHALATA SEN : মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, শ্রীযুত কমলকৃষ্ণ রায় মহাশয় যে প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করেছেন মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার সম্পর্কে সে প্রস্তাব আমি সর্বান্তঃকরণে সমর্থন করছি। আমি আশা করি এই হাউসে এমন কোন মেম্বর নাই, যিনি এর বিরোধিতা করবেন।

মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলতে গিয়ে আমি প্রথমেই আমাদের দেশবাসী সকল পুরুষকে ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করছি, যাঁরা আমাদের দেশের মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার সম্বন্ধে চিরকাল সহায়তাই করে এসেছেন, কখনও বিরোধিতা করেন নাই। বিলাত যে এত বড় উন্নত দেশ সেখানেও Suffrage Movementএর ভিতর দেখেছি, যে মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার আদায় করতে কত রকম সংগ্রাম করতে হয়েছিল। কিন্তু আমাদের দেশে মেয়েদের সেরূপ করতে হয়নি। সেইজন্য আমি আগেই আমাদের দেশের পুরুষদের ধন্যবাদ দিচ্ছি; এবং আশা করি এখন যে মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার সম্প্রসারণের চেষ্টা হচ্ছে তাতেও তাঁরা সহায়তা করবেন। উচ্চতম পরিষদে সর্বপ্রথম মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার রয়েছে। তার ফলে মেয়েরা ক্রমশঃ অগ্রসর হয়ে, নিজেদের ক্ষমতা ও বুদ্ধি বিকাশ করবার সুযোগ লাভ করেছে।

মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয় বলেছেন যে ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট বোর্ডে মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার যাতে সম্প্রসারিত হয় সে বিষয় তাঁরা বিবেচনা করছেন, কিন্তু ইউনিয়ন বোর্ড সম্পর্কে একটা আপত্তি রয়েছে, যে মেয়েরা অধিক সংখ্যায় ভোট দিতে আসে না, এবং সেখানে এই ব্যবস্থা করতে গেলে ব্যয়বাহুল্য হবে। এই যে যুক্তি তিনি দেখিয়েছেন এটা কখনই সমর্থিত হতে পারে না। অন্যান্য প্রদেশে মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার দেওয়া হয়েছে শুধু বাংলাই কেন এ বিষয়ে পিছনে পড়ে থাকবে? প্রথম যখন মেয়েদের ভিতর শিক্ষা দেবার ব্যবস্থা করা হয়, তখন মনে হয়েছিল যে এটা কত কঠিন। কিন্তু তাই বলে সেই সময় যদি চেষ্টা না হতো, তাহ'লে আজ মেয়েরা যে শিক্ষা লাভ করেছে তা সম্ভবপর হতো না। সুতরাং আজ এখানে মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার সম্প্রসারণের জন্য যে প্রস্তাব উত্থাপিত হয়েছে সেটা মেনে নেওয়া একান্তই সঙ্গত বলে আমি মনে করি। মেয়েদের যদি এই অধিকার দেওয়া হয় তাহলে তাদের মধ্যে ঐ অধিকারের উপযোগী হওয়ার একটা প্রচেষ্টা হবে। অন্যান্য প্রদেশে মেয়েদের যে সাধারণ এরূপ ভোটাধিকার দেওয়া হয়েছে, তাতে ব্যয়বাহুল্য হলেও এবং তার যথেষ্ট প্রতিবন্ধক থাকা সত্ত্বেও সেখানে এটা চালু রাখা হয়েছে, কিন্তু বাংলা সকল প্রদেশের অগ্রণী হয়েও সেখানে কেন এটা হবে না, তা আমি বুঝতে পারি না। সুতরাং আমার অনুরোধ যে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় একটা অনুসন্ধান বোর্ড বা Enquiry Committee করে দেখতে পাবেন যে এ বিষয়ে অন্যান্য প্রদেশ কিভাবে কাজ করেছে। আমার মতে এটা প্রত্যাখ্যান না করে অন্ততঃ বিচারাধীনে রাখা কর্তব্য। ধরুন কোন জায়গায় জল নাই, সেখানে যদি সময়মত একটা খাদ কেটে রাখা যায়, তাহলে বর্ষা সেটা পরিপূর্ণ হয়ে যাবে এবং প্রয়োজনের সময় জল পাওয়া যাবে, কিন্তু যদি খাদ আগে না কাটা হয় তাহ'লে জল পাবার আশা থাকে না। সেইজন্য আজকে মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার দিলে ক্রমে ক্রমে সেটা সম্প্রসারিত হতে পারবে। ব্যয়বাহুল্যের অজুহাতে এটাকে বন্ধ করে রাখা কোন ক্রমেই সঙ্গত হতে পারে না। কোন কাজ করতে হলে প্রথমেই বিবেচনা করে দেখা কর্তব্য যে এই কাজটা কল্যাণকর কি অকল্যাণকর। যদি কল্যাণকর হয় তবে সেটা নানা বাধাবিঘ্ন সত্ত্বেও স্বীকার করে নেওয়া উচিত। সুতরাং এখানে আমাদের দেখা উচিত যে, যে অধিকার চাওয়া হচ্ছে সেটা কল্যাণজনক কি অকল্যাণজনক। আমার মতে এটা নিশ্চয়ই কল্যাণজনক। দেশের স্ত্রী-পুরুষ সমভাবে যদি জাগ্রত ও শক্তিশালী না হয় তাহলে সে জাতির কখনও উন্নতি হতে পারে না।

অনেকে বলেছেন এটা গুরুতর revolutionary ব্যাপার। কিন্তু বিপ্লবের ভিতর দিয়েই জাতির সকল রকম কল্যাণ এসে থাকে। প্রথমেই আমাদের চিন্তা করতে হবে যে, যে জিনিষটা আমরা চাচ্ছি সেটা জাতির পক্ষে কল্যাণকর কি না। যদি কল্যাণকর হয় তবে, সে প্রচেষ্টা বৈপ্লবিক হলেও তা সমর্থন করা কর্তব্য। এখন চিন্তা করে দেখতে হবে যে, মেয়েদের চিন্তা শক্তি, ক্ষমতা ও বিচারবুদ্ধির বিকাশ জাতির পক্ষে কল্যাণকর কি না? আমরা উচ্চ পরিষদে ভোটাধিকার পেয়েছি। কিন্তু বাস্তবিকপক্ষে মেয়েদের শিক্ষা, বুদ্ধি ও শক্তি ব্যাপকভাবে জাগ্রত করতে হলে, পল্লী গ্রামের মেয়েদের ভিতর দিয়েই করা সম্ভবপর। কেননা পল্লীগ্রামেই অধিকাংশ নরনারী বাস করে থাকে, আর তাই Union Boardএ মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার দেওয়া খুবই প্রয়োজন। কয়েকজন মাত্র বিশিষ্টা নারী উচ্চ পরিষদে স্থান লাভ করিলেই জাতির প্রকৃত উন্নতি সাধন হয় না।

আমি মেয়েদের পক্ষ থেকে এই কথাই বলছি যে, এই দেশের পুরুষেরা যাঁরা বরাবর মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকারকে সহানুভূতির চোখে দেখেছেন তাঁরা আজও যেন সেইরূপ চোখেই দেখেন।

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Sir, in rising to oppose the resolution I do not mean to say that women of the Province should have no right to vote or that they cannot claim to exercise their right of voting in the district board elections or in the union board elections. My friend the mover of the resolution has stressed upon the right of franchise to women in the province of Bengal and has cited some instances in connection therewith.

He has said that there is no reason why the women of the Province should not be enfranchised in respect of Local Self-Government matters as well as Village Self-Government matters. With regard to that he has mentioned the names of Mrs. Vijaylakshmi Pandit, Mrs. Naidu and some others and has further cited the instance of the recent election of the Midnapore Municipality. He has also said that he has personal experience of what percentage of the voters in the Municipal election attend the voting centres to exercise their franchise. But, Sir, we have also seen and we can say from our experience in the matter of elections to the Bengal Legislature and also to the Central Legislature, that though a large number of female voters were in the voters' list, a very nominal percentage of these voters appeared in the polling stations.

Mr. BENODE CHANDRA CHAKRABORTY: More than 60 per cent.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: I do not think so. The honourable member represents one part of Bengal and he might speak about his own area. I also represent the vast district of Mymensingh where they is a very large population and a large number of female voters amongst them. During the last elections to the Bengal Legislative Assembly I have seen that of about 13,000 female voters in my constituency consisting of 3 thanas, not even 1,000 voters voted.

Mr. BENODE CHANDRA CHAKRABORTY: That may be the case in a Muslim constituency.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Without interrupting me, I hope you will have the patience to hear me, and then you will have the opportunity to oppose me. It may or may not appeal to you, but that does not mean that you will not allow anybody to oppose the resolution.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: On a point of information, Sir. Is the honourable member speaking about his own constituency or in general?

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: I am speaking in general about female voters. From my personal experience I can say and I have seen that every lady is not one Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit or every lady is not one Mrs. Sarojini Naidu. When it will be the good luck of the Province of Bengal to have ladies of the type, status, education and culture of these venerable ladies, I think there will be nobody to oppose such a resolution. But with all respect to the ladies, I am constrained to say that the time has not yet come. Such a time can only come for the Province of Bengal when arrangements have been made for lady polling officers and improvements have been made in the matter of communications, railways and police-stations for giving facilities to the female voters to go to the polling stations. When Bengal will turn into such a Province that there will be improvement in communications, railways, polling station arrangements, lady polling officers, it is only then that we can think of these things. But during my election, for the Muslim seats as well as the non-Muslim seats which lay in the same area, we have seen and most of the members sitting opposite also know how many lady voters within the rural areas of Bengal came to the polling stations to vote. As a matter of fact, there are so many inconveniences. The ladies of the Province of Bengal are not so much educated as to be able to understand or appreciate all these and besides there is no facility and there is no arrangement. A polling station is set up sometimes 5 miles or 6 miles away from the house of a lady and having regard to the present communications and the system prevailing in the Province, it is hardly expected that adequate arrangements are possible for the conveyance of all the lady voters to the polling stations at a distance of 6 or 7 miles. That is simply impossible. So, I say that the time has not yet come for this. My friend has cited the instance of the Midnapore Municipality. I quite agree that in

a municipality it is very easy for the candidates to bring lady voters to the polling stations because there are hackney carriages, there are motor cars, there are lorries and there are rickshaws and the polling station is not even a quarter of a mile from their houses, but the cases with respect to the rural areas, union board areas and district board areas are altogether quite different. There it is impossible to think of taking even 10 per cent. of the ladies to the polling stations—even 2 per cent. will not go. As I have already stated—even at the risk of repetition I tell you once again—that you have seen in the last general election of the Bengal Assembly as well as of the Central Assembly how many lady voters really attended the polling stations. We cannot go against our own experience. You may have seen different things in different parts of Bengal, but speaking for Eastern Bengal generally I think my statement holds good and even for Northern Bengal this is true.

Mrs. Sen also said that once the right to exercise vote is given to the ladies of Bengal, they will certainly go and exercise their right. But the present Legislative Assembly is based on the Act of 1935. Ten years have passed and some elections are over, but no improvement—no appreciable improvement—to exercise their right we have seen.

The question of cost is another question. Of course, I quite agree that if it is found practicable and useful and if it is expected that at least 50 per cent. of the lady voters would attend the polling stations, certainly it is a good argument in support of the motion, but when we have seen that even 2 per cent. or 3 per cent. do not attend, the money that will be spent will be wasted. So far as the law stands at the present moment, the money for district board election is to be paid from the district fund and district funds are not very affluent in Bengal and I am afraid, circumstanced at the district boards of Bengal are, they are not in a position to spend money for enrolling ladies as their voters, even 2 per cent. of whom will not attend the polling stations. So, this will be mere waste of money.

Sir, with these remarks I oppose this resolution.

Mrs. NELLIE SEN GUPTA: I stand to support the resolution of my friend on this side. My friend on the opposite side says his experience is that the ladies did not come to vote. It may be the ladies of his district did not like him, but certainly I would never be standing here but for the votes of the ladies of the district of Chittagong. When he says that ladies would not walk even for five minutes, I say that he is wrong. In my district ladies walked 4 or 5 miles, they went by boat and they went through the greatest of difficulties to give their votes for me.

Our friend on the opposite side has said that all ladies cannot be Mrs. Pandits or Mrs. Naidus, but are all the gentlemen on the other side Jawaharlal Nehrus or even Suhrawardys. (Laughter.) Every woman of India has a right and every woman of India; I find, whether rich or poor, is anxious to come and give her vote and I am sure if she is given the chance to come to the district board or union board, she will come and she will do her duty by her countrymen.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: I move that the question be now put.

Mr MUHAMMAD RUKNUDDIN : মাননীয় স্পীকার সাহেব, মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার-দিবার প্রস্তাবটিকে আমাদের বিরোধী দল খুব জোরের সহিত সমর্থন করছেন। আজ যদি Assembly electionএর মত Union Board এবং ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট বোর্ড নির্বাচনেও পৃথক নির্বাচনের ব্যবস্থা থাকত তাহলে আমাকে এই প্রস্তাবের বিরোধিতা করতে দাঁড়াতে হত না। যদি এই নিয়ম থাকত যে এই সব স্বায়ত্ত-শাসন প্রতিষ্ঠানের নির্বাচনে শুধু হিন্দু স্ত্রী-পুরুষ নির্বিশেষে হিন্দু প্রার্থীকেই ভোট দিবে এবং শুধু মুসলমান মুসলমান প্রার্থীকেই ভোট দিবে তাহলে এই প্রস্তাবের বিরোধিতা করার প্রশ্নই উঠত না কারণ আমরা আইন পরিষদের গত নির্বাচনের সময় দেখেছি মুসলমান প্রার্থীর ভোটে কেবল মুসলমান মেয়ে এবং পুরুষেরই অধিকার ছিল,

তেমনি হিন্দু প্রার্থীর ভোটেও কেবল হিন্দু মেয়ে এবং পুরুষেরই অধিকার ছিল। কাজেই কোন জাতির কত মেয়ে তাঁদের স্বজাতির প্রার্থীকে ভোট দিতে কেন্দ্রে গেলেন বা না গেলেন তারজন্য অন্য সম্প্রদায়ের মোটেই মাথা ঘামাতে হয়নি।

আমরা মুসলমান প্রার্থীর ভোটের বেলায় দেখেছি যে পুরুষ এবং মেয়ে উভয়েরই ভোট দেওয়ার অধিকার ছিল বটে কিন্তু অধিকাংশ মুসলমান মেয়েরা Polling Stationএ ভোট দিতে যায় নাই কারণ তাঁরা ধর্ম্মকে সবচেয়ে বড় জানে, এবং তাঁরা পর্দ্দানশীন বলে কিছুতেই পর্দ্দা ত্যাগ করতে পারেন না। এবং ভবিষ্যতেও পারবে না। (VOICE FROM OPPOSITION BENCHES লাহোরে মুসলমান মেয়েরা গ্রেপ্তার হয়েছে।) অতএব ধর্ম্মের দিক থেকে বলুন, সমাজের দিক থেকে বলুন কোনদিক থেকেই আমরা এ প্রস্তাব সমর্থন করতে পারি না।

অবশ্য কোন কোন Polling Stationএ মুসলমান মেয়েরা ভোট দিতে এসেছিলেন কিন্তু তাঁদের বহু কষ্ট স্বীকার করতে হয়েছিল এবং তাঁদের স্বামী বা ব্যক্তি বিশেষের বহু পয়সা খরচ করতে হয়েছিল। এমন কি মেয়েরা তাঁদের ইজ্জত ও আবরু রক্ষা করার জন্য নিজেদের পকেটের পয়সা খরচ করে ভোট দিতে এসেছিলেন। বাধ্য হয়েই এখানে হিন্দু এবং মুসলমানের প্রশ্ন তোলার দরকার হয়। একই বাংলা দেশে আমরা দুইটি ভিন্ন জাতি কাছাকাছি বা একই জায়গায় বাস করছি কিন্তু প্রতি ক্ষেত্রেই ইচ্ছাকৃতভাবে হউক আর অনিচ্ছাকৃতভাবেই হউক হিন্দু-মুসলমানের প্রশ্ন উঠেই। এই পরম সত্যকে চোখ বুজে অস্বীকার করা যেতে পারে না। হিন্দু মেয়েরা যা পারবেন, মুসলমান মেয়েদের দ্বারা সকল ক্ষেত্রে তাহা করা সম্ভব নহে। মুসলমান মেয়েদের দ্বারা ভোট দেওয়ান একেবারেই অসম্ভব--তাঁদের ধর্ম্মের দিকে থেকে তাঁদের সামাজিকতার দিক থেকে এবং তাঁদের অর্থনৈতিকতার দিক থেকে--যে দিক থেকেই বিচার করা যায় না কেন তাঁরা ভোট দিতে কিছুতেই পারেন না, তবে এই Local Self-Governmentগুলিতে District Board ও Union Boardএ যদি পৃথক নির্ব্বাচন প্রথার ব্যবস্থা থাকত তাহ'লে আমি কখনও এই প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলিতে সকল জাতির মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকারের বিরোধিতা করতাম না। কেন না এক সম্প্রদায়ের স্ত্রী পুরুষের মিলিত ভোটাধিক্য অন্য সম্প্রদায়ের প্রার্থীর নির্ব্বাচনে ব্যাঘাত ঘটাইত না মোটেই।

তারপর বলা হয়েছে যে মেয়েদের অধিকার পুরুষের অধিকারের চেয়ে কোন অংশেই কম নয়, একথা যদিও অন্যান্য communityর আমার ভাইরা বলতে পারেন কিন্তু আমরা মুসলমান হিসাবে সকল ক্ষেত্রেই একথা স্বীকার করতে রাজি নই। আমার বোনদের প্রতি আমার অনুরোধ তাঁরা যেন ভুলে না যান যে মেয়ে এবং পুরুষের যিনি সৃষ্টিকর্ত্তা তিনি এদের দুইজনকেই দুই বিভিন্ন কাজ করবার উদ্দেশ্যে বিভিন্ন শারীরিক এবং মানসিক গঠনে গড়েছেন। সৃষ্টির বৈচিত্র্যের উদ্দেশ্য যদি তাই না হবে তাহ'লে "Distribution of Works" কথার কোন অর্থ হয় না এবং সৃষ্টিকর্ত্তার বিরাট সৃষ্টির ভিতর হতেও "Distribution of Works"এর প্রশ্ন একেবারে তুলে দিতে হয়। পুরুষের কর্ম্মক্ষেত্র হতে মেয়েদের কর্ম্মক্ষেত্র যে পৃথক একথা ভুললে চলবে না। মেয়েদেরকে Assembly বা District Board বা Union Boardএ ভোটের সময় টেনে এনে ভোট দেওয়ালে জাতি খুব উন্নত হয়ে যাবে এটা স্বীকার করতে আমি বাধ্য নই, অবশ্য তাঁদেরকে শিক্ষা দীক্ষায় উন্নত করে তোলা সেটা হ'ল স্বতন্ত্র কথা।

তারপর হচ্ছে টাকা পয়সা খরচের প্রশ্ন। খরচের দিক দিয়া চিন্তা করলে District Board এবং Union Boardএর নির্ব্বাচনে মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার কোনমতেই সমর্থন করা যায় না। গত Assembly Electionএ গভর্ণমেণ্টের যথেষ্ট পরিমাণ টাকা ব্যয় হয়েছে। অবশ্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের ফাণ্ড বড় তাই ব্যয় করতে সমর্থ হয়েছে, কিন্তু District Board বা Union Boardএর নির্ব্বাচনের বেলায় সেটা সম্পূর্ণ অসম্ভব হয়ে পড়বে। কারণ বর্ত্তমানে District Board এবং Union Boardএর নির্ব্বাচনের জন্য যে টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয় তাতে নির্ব্বাচনী ব্যয় কুলাইয়া উঠে না। তদুপরি মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার দিলে ত মোটেই কুলাবে না। পর্দ্দানশীন মেয়েরা তাঁদের ইজ্জত ও আবরু রক্ষা করতে বাধ্য। অবশ্য পর্দ্দা বলে যাঁদের কোন বালাই নাই তাঁদের কথা ছেড়ে দেই। তাঁরা যেমনভাবে হাটে বাজারে বেড়াতে পারেন তেমনভাবে ভোট দিতেও আসতে পারেন, পর্দ্দা-পোসিদা থাকা মুসলমান মেয়েদের অবশ্য কর্ত্তব্য, পর্দ্দা তাঁদের ধর্ম্মের ও সমাজের একটা প্রধান অঙ্গ। এ তাঁরা কিছুতেই ত্যাগ করতে পারে না, কাজেই মুসলমান মেয়েদের Polling Boothএ ভোট দিতে নিয়ে যাওয়া একটা বিরাট খরচের ব্যাপার হয়ে দাঁড়াবে। সে খরচ District Board বা Union Board তাদের ক্ষুদ্র ফাণ্ড থেকে বহন করতে সমর্থ হবে না।

পরিশেষে আমার বক্তব্য এই যে District Board বা Union Boardএ স্বতন্ত্র নির্বাচন প্রথা প্রবর্ত্তিত না হওয়া পর্য্যন্ত মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার কিছুতেই দেওয়া যাইতে পারে না। এই বলে আমি এই প্রস্তাবের বিরোধিতা করছি।

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I submit that there has been reasonable debate. I move that the question be now put.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Sir, I want to speak. I have already caught your eye.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Already there is a closure motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have not yet heard the Government member. Yes, Mr. Chaudhury, you can speak for five minutes.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, জেলা বোর্ড ও ইউনিয়ন বোর্ড এ মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার দেওয়া যেতে পারে কি না তাই আজকের আলোচ্য বিষয়। যে প্রস্তাব পরিষদের সম্মুখে উপস্থিত করা হয়েছে তাকে অনেকেই বৈপ্লবিক প্রস্তাব বলে অভিহিত করেছেন। বিপ্লবকে আর যেই ভয় করুক, আমরা মানে মুসলমানরা ভয় করি না। ১৩শ বছর আগে মরুর দেশের নবী নারীদের যে আইনগত অধিকার দিয়েছেন আজকের প্রগতির যুগেও সভ্য জগত তা থেকে বিশেষ এগিয়ে যেতে পারেনি। ইংলণ্ড, ফ্রান্স, আমেরিকা এমন কি সোভিয়েট রাশিয়ার প্রগতিশীল মেয়েরাও কি বলতে পারেন তাঁরা আইনগত অধিকারের দিক থেকে মুসলমান মেয়েদের চেয়ে খুব বেশী ভাগ্যবতী? বিবাহ মুসলমানদের মতে কণ্ট্রাক্ট—সেক্রামেণ্ট নয়। মুসলমান মেয়ের বিবাহ বিচ্ছেদের অধিকার রয়েছে যদিও বিচ্ছেদকে প্রত্যেক মুসলমান অবাঞ্ছিত ব্যাপার বলেই মনে করে ইসলামের উত্তরাধিকার আইন যে কোন প্রগতিশীল দেশের আইনের সঙ্গে তুলনা হতে পারে।

হজরত আয়েশা সিদ্দিকা থেকে শুরু করে যুগে যুগে অসংখ্য মহীয়সী নারী রাষ্ট্র পরিচালনায় দায়িত্ব নিয়েছেন। স্পেন, আরব, মিসর, পারস্য, তুরস্ক, দিল্লী, আগ্রা, গৌড়, পাণ্ডুয়া, মুর্শিদাবাদ সর্ব্বত্রই আমরা দেখতে পাই রাষ্ট্র-পরিচালনের ক্ষেত্রে নারী হস্তের স্পর্শ। বর্ত্তমান যুগেও মুসলীম জগতে খালেদা খানমের মত মহিলার জন্ম হয়েছে।

অতীতের কথা ছেড়ে দেই--মুসলিম জগতের প্রগতিশীল দেশগুলোর কথাও আজ নাই বা আলোচনা করলাম, ভারতের প্রায় প্রত্যেক প্রদেশেই আইন সভায় মুসলিম নারী তার বিশিষ্ট প্রতিভার পরিচয় দিচ্ছে। বাংলায় প্রথম মহিলা মিউনিসিপাল কমিশনার একজন মুসলিম নারী। পাঞ্জাবের বেগম শাহনওয়াজ, যুক্তপ্রদেশের বেগম আইজাজ রসুল, আসামের মিসেস রহমান, বাংলার মিসেস হাকাম আইন সভায় বিশিষ্ট স্থান অধিকার করেছেন। বর্ত্তমান শাসন সংস্কার পুরর্ত্তনের সময় আইন সভায় মেয়েদের জন্যে কয়েকটি আসন নির্দ্দিষ্ট করবার ব্যাপারে আন্দোলন করেছিলেন বাংলার মুসলিম মেয়েরাই সবচেয়ে বেশী। এই আন্দোলনের নেতৃত্ব নিয়েছিলেন অধ্যাপক সামসুন নাহার। সে সময় স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন, নবাব মোশাররফ হোসেন প্রমুখ নেতারা আপত্তি করেছিলেন এই বলে যে আইন সভায় মুসলমান মেয়েরা আসতে চাইবেন না। এই আশঙ্কা অমূলক বলে প্রমাণিত হয়েছে। এবারকার নির্বাচনে মুসলিম মহিলারা ভোট দিতে যাননি, কেউ কেউ বলেছেন। কিন্তু আমার নির্বাচকমণ্ডলীতে অন্য রকম ব্যাপারই দেখা গিয়েছে। সম্ভ্রান্ত ঘরের ৭০ বছরের বৃদ্ধারাও দেখেছি নানারকম অসুবিধার ভিতর দিয়েও ভোট কেন্দ্রে উপস্থিত হয়েছিলেন। নির্বাচনের ফলাফল জানবার জন্যে তাঁদের আগ্রহ ছিল পুরুষদের চেয়েও বেশী। তাছাড়া ভোটাধিকারের educative valueর কথাও কেউ অস্বীকার করতে পারবেন না। যেখানেই ভোটাধিকার প্রবর্ত্তিত হয়েছে সেখানেই আমরা দেখেছি নারী তার ন্যায্য অধিকার সম্পর্কে সম্পূর্ণ সজাগ হয়ে উঠেছে। মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার প্রবর্ত্তিত হলে মুসলিম মেয়েরা সে অধিকারের সদ্ব্যবহার করবে না, কাজেই জাতি হিসাবে মুসলমান ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হবে--এই শ্রেণীর প্রতিক্রিয়াশীল যুক্তি মানতে আমরা রাজী নই। কাল্পনিক জুজুর ভয় দেখিয়ে প্রগতিকে ঠেকিয়ে রাখা আত্মহত্যারই নামান্তর মাত্র।

শিক্ষার ক্ষেত্রে মুসলমান মেয়েদের অগ্রগতি এক কথায় বলা যায় Phenomenal. শুধু প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা নয় মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ শিক্ষায় এঁরা যেভাবে অগ্রসর হচ্ছেন পৃথিবীর দু'চারটি দেশের সঙ্গে তার তুলনা হতে পারে। মাত্র তিন চারিটি মেয়ে নিয়ে বেথুন কলেজ আরম্ভ হয়েছিল। অনেক বছর কলেজের ক্লাশগুলো খালি পড়ে থাকত। কিন্তু লেডী ব্রাবোর্ণ কলেজের বেলায় তা হয়নি। মেডিক্যাল কলেজে--বিলাতে, আমেরিকায় উচ্চতম শিক্ষা লাভের জন্যে মুসলমান মেয়েরা আজ ব্যস্ত হয়ে পড়েছে। প্রতিক্রিয়াপন্থীদের ক্ষমতা নেই যৌবনের এই জলতরঙ্গ রোধ করতে পারে।

কিন্তু তাহলেও সমস্যার অন্যদিক আমাদের ভেবে দেখতে হবে। আজ পর্য্যন্ত এদেশে সহরের উচ্চ মধ্যবিত্ত শ্রেণীর মেয়েরাই রাজনীতি চর্চ্চা করে এসেছেন। যে সব বহীয়সী নারী আইন সভায় এসেছেন তাঁদের সন্তানদের দায়িত্ব নিয়েছে নার্সারী স্কুল। আমাদের গ্রামের মেয়েরা নার্সারী স্কুলের কল্পনাও করতে পারে না। গ্রামে শিশুশিক্ষার উপযুক্ত ব্যবস্থা না হতেই মেয়েরা যদি রাজনীতি চর্চ্চায় অংশ নিতে শুরু করেন তাহলে ভবিষ্যৎ বংশধরদের উপর অবিচার করা হবে।

দুর্ভাগ্য বলতে হবে দেশের রাজনৈতিক আবহাওয়া আজ বিষাক্ত হয়ে উঠেছে। আইন পরিষদে মাননীয় ধীরেন দত্ত বক্তৃতা করেন--হাজার হাজার নারীর উপর নির্য্যাতন হয়েছে, হাজার হাজার নারীকে করতে হয়েছে ধর্ম্মান্তর গ্রহণ ..... । এদিক থেকেও দেওয়া হচ্ছে পালটা জবাব। জাতি বিদ্বেষের বিষে আমাদের মানস ও মনন আজ জর্জ্জরিত। এই বিষাক্ত আবহাওয়ায় আমাদের better half দের টেনে আনা সমিচীন হবে কি না তাহাও আজ বিবেচ্য। যে সব মেয়ে জেলা বোর্ড ও লোকাল বোর্ডে সদস্য হবেন তাঁদের বেশীর ভাগই একানুবর্ত্তী পরিবারের গিন্নী। গিন্নীরা যদি ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের কোন্দলে জড়িয়ে পড়েন বাংলায় পল্লী সমাজে তার কি প্রতিক্রিয়া হবে তাও আজ ভেবে দেখা দরকার।

বাংলায় হিন্দুদের মধ্যেও আজ অল্পবিস্তর পর্দ্দা প্রথার প্রচলন রয়েছে। মেয়ে ভোটারদের সংখ্যা পুরুষ ভোটারদের চেয়ে হবে অনেক বেশী। এঁদের ভোটের জন্যে যানবাহনের বিশেষ ব্যবস্থার প্রয়োজন হবে। তাতে যে টাকা খরচ হবে তাতে করে যা পড়বে জনকল্যাণমূলক ব্যবস্থার গোড়ায়। তাছাড়া যে কোন মুহূর্ত্তেই মেয়েরা দলবদ্ধ হয়ে পুরুষদের জেলা ও লোক্যাল বোর্ড থেকে উচ্ছেদ করতে পারবেন।

প্রস্তাবে বলা হয়েছে--ভোটারদের স্ত্রীরা ভোটের অধিকার পাবেন। ভোটার সংখ্যা বাড়াবার জন্যে যদি প্রতিযোগিতা শুরু হয় তার পরিণতি কি হবে কে জানে? সমস্যার এই দিকটা বিশেষ করে বিবেচনা করে দেখেন যদি, বিরুদ্ধ দলের মহিলা সদস্যারা--মিসেস সেনগুপ্তা, শ্রীযুক্তা আশালতা সেন ও কমরেড বীণা দাস—তাঁরাও হয়ত বলবেন--"ধীরে রজনী ধীরে।"

Mr. Md. ABDUS SALAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার নিয়ে যে প্রশ্ন আজ এখানে উঠেছে আমি তৎসম্বন্ধে দুই একটি কথা বলতে চাই। মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার থাকা দরকার—সে সম্বন্ধে আমরা সকলেই একমত, কিন্তু কথা হচ্ছে যে তার এখনও ঠিক সময় হয় নাই। আপনারা union board, district board electionএ যে মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার চাচ্ছেন কিন্তু সেখানে এখনও joint electorate এর ব্যবস্থাই রয়েছে। আমরা দেখতে পাই যে এক community অর্থাৎ minority community জান গেলেও তাঁদের একটা ভোটও majority community কে দিতে রাজী নন; তাঁরা এই প্রকারের communal হয়ে পড়েছেন। সেই কারণে আমি আমার ভগ্নীদের আর ঐ প্রকারের communal হতে দিতে রাজি নই এবং আমি চাই না যে তারাও শিখুক এক communityর হয়ে আর এক community কে ভোট দেওয়া হবে না। যখন union board ও district board এ separate electorate হবে তখনই মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার দাবী করবার ঠিক সময় হবে। (A noise and laughter বাহা—বাহা)। আমার পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী বক্তা বন্ধুবর বাহার সাহেব বলেছেন যে মেয়েরা ভোট দিতে গেলে তাঁদের ছেলে মেয়েদের কে দেখবে, কিন্তু শুধু ছেলে মেয়েদের দেখা নয় তাছাড়া পল্লীগ্রামের মেয়েদের অনেককে রান্নার কাজও করতে হয়; যদি তাঁরা union board, district boardএ ভোট দিতে চলে যান তাঁদের সে কাজটা করবে কে? আমাদের opposite partyতে যাঁরা বসে আছেন তাঁরা চিন্তা করলে বুঝতে পারবেন এ ব্যবস্থা হলে তাঁদের অনেককে অনেক দিন উপোস থাকতে হবে, অনেক সময় না খেয়ে অফিস যেতে হবে। এই সকল বিষয় চিন্তা করলে মনে হয় মেয়েদের ভোটাধিকার পাওয়ার সময় এখনও হয় নাই।

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the risk of being unchivalrous and even at the risk of displeasing Mrs. Ashalata Sen and Mrs. Sen Gupta, I am afraid, I have to oppose the resolution.

Sir, this resolution is not as simple as it looks. It proposes to bring in a radical change of a far-reaching character. It is not a proposal merely to give franchise to women, but it is a proposal which will turn the very character of the Village Self-Government Act and the Local Self-Government Act.

First of all I would like to state that under the present Act and the Rules framed under the Act all costs of elections to local self-governing bodies are met out of the funds of the local bodies concerned. But in the present political and social context, as explained by my friend Mr. Rukonuddin, we have to make arrangements for ladies separately: separate polling booths have to be constructed so that women may exercise their franchise and give their votes in seclusion and in conformity with purdah restrictions. It means that additional cost has to be incurred for the election. Honourable members are perhaps aware that union board funds are very limited and if they have got to incur additional expenditure, it will have to be done at the cost of the public. Sir, I have already announced in the House on Friday the Government policy in regard to the extension of franchise to women. I have said that Government are bringing in a comprehensive amending Bill so that the Local Self-Government Act may be amended, and one of the provisions of the Bill would be to extend franchise to women; and at that time I said that it would not be possible for Government to extend franchise to women in union boards. Of course, we have got women exercising their franchise in elections to the Legislature and municipal bodies, and we believe that in the process of evolution women would be getting the right of franchise in elections to the local self-governing bodies. We are therefore willing that women should be enfranchised so far as the district board is concerned, but we cannot yet accept this policy with regard to the union board. Of course, one of the provisions of the amending Bill is about giving franchise to women in the district board and in that connection the question of separate electorate for separate communities is being examined by Government. There was a conference of Chairmen of district boards a few days ago and the Conference decided that franchise should be given to women and there should also be a provision for separate electorate in the district board.

Now, Sir, the franchise that we propose to give to women is not of such a far-reaching character which would be on the basis of property qualifications applicable to a male voter. But the resolution moved by Mr. Kamal Krishna Roy is of much more far-reaching character. Here it is proposed that women who are literate, or who have their own property qualifications or wives of husbands, or daughters of fathers, or wards of guardians who pay tax, shall be eligible to vote. It means therefore that the number of women voters would be far in excess of male voters. In short, if the honourable members will examine the resolution carefully, they will find that on an average there will be at least three or four female voters for every male voter. Therefore this resolution proposes to bring in changes of a revolutionary character. It will mean that every male voter who is registered as a voter will have one or two or three or even four daughters who will be eligible to become voters, whereas on the other hand the same privilege will not be extended to adult sons. If the husband is a voter, all his wives would be eligible to become voters, and in India there are more than one wife in many cases. (VOICES: Muslims will be benefited.) Some friends have brought in the communal question. I also cannot abstain from doing so. Muslims will rather be at a great disadvantage, because Muslims can produce a maximum of four wives whereas the Hindus have the advantage of producing as many wives as they like. (Laughter.) So if it is provided that on the qualifications of a husband all his wives will become eligible to become voters, there is no knowing what will be the total number of voters. In the same way it is proposed that even wards of guardians will be voters. It means that every person who is eligible to vote will have one, two, three or four females as his wards, and they will all be eligible to vote. In short, the number of female voters will be at least four or five times of male voters. That is the reason why I cannot accept this proposal for bringing a revolutionary change in the administration of local self-governing bodies. Then, again, if you mean that by their votes the women would be able to drive out the males

from the administration of local self-governing bodies, the male members will have to abdicate in favour of the female voters. Of course, I will not say that it is a very happy thing—it might be or it might not be—but the country is not prepared for such a revolutionary change at this stage.

Reference was made to the fact that women voters of Midnapore exercised their franchise in large number. It has been our experience that women have not exercised the franchise so far as election to the legislature is concerned. It may be that the times are changing. It may be that in Midnapore response was very good, but Midnapore is an urban area and the proposal of Mr. Kamal Krishna Roy is to give franchise to women even in villages. Conditions in the villages and in the urban areas are not the same. There is the transport difficulty, as Mr. Sharfuddin Ahmed has pointed out. It is true that it is probably a very happy augury of the future that we have our Vijay Lakshmi Pandits, we have our Sarojini Naidus, we have our Begum Shaw Nawazes, but their number is limited. It is true they are in urban areas. There are very few Vijay Lakshmi Pandits and Begum Shaw Nawazes in the villages. Let us hope that the time will come when we will have Vijay Lakshmi Pandits and Begum Shaw Nawazes in the villages and when that time come, we will certainly give them franchise, we will certainly give them every scope to participate in their own self-governing institutions. As the time is up, I oppose the resolution moved by Mr. Kamal Krishna Roy.

The motion of Mr. Kamal Krishna Roy that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Bengal should take immediate steps to amend the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885 and the Bengal Village Self-Government Act of 1919 so that all females of the age of 21 years or more who are literate, or who pay the requisite amount of union rate or chowkidari tax or road cess as required under the Acts to qualify themselves to be voters or members or whose husbands or fathers, or guardians, as the case may be, are qualified by these Acts to be voters or members, shall be entitled to be voters or members of the institutions set up by these Acts, was then put and a division taken with the following results:—

AYES—50.

Adhikari, Mr. Amulya Chandra
Bandopadhaya, Mr. Pramatha Nath
Banerjee, Mr. Susil Kumar
Barman, Mr. Mohini Mohan
Basu, Mr. Hemanta Kumar
Bhattacharjee, Mr. Ganendra Chandra
Bhattacharjee, Mr. Munindra Nath
Bhattacharyya, Mr. Shyamapada
Birsha, Mr. Bir
Bose, Mr. Satish Chandra
Chakraborty, Mr. Benode Chandra
Chakravarty, Mr. Satish Chandra
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Mihir Lal
Chowdhury, Mr. Annada Prosad
Das, Mr. Brojomadhab
Das, Mr. Radha Nath
Das Gupta, Mr. Khagendra Nath
Das Gupta, Mr. Suresh Chandra
Dass, Mr. Kanailal
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath
De, Mr. Kanai Lal
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar
Ganguli, Mr. Bepin Behari
Gayen, Mr. Arabinda
Ghose, Mr. A. K.
Ghosh Chowdhury, Mr. Haran Chandra
Guha Roy, Dr. Protap Chandra
Gupta, Mr. Monoranjan
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath
Lahiri, Mr. Provas Chandra
Mahanty, Mr. Charu Chandra
Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari
Majhi, Mr. Nishapati
Majumdar, Mr. Bhupati
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra
Mallick, Mr. Ashutosh
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad
Murarka, Mr. Basantlal
Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra
Panja, Mr. Jadabendra Nath
Pramanik, Mr. Rajani Kanta
Ray, Mr. Kamal Krishna
Roy, Mr. Ram Hari
Sen, Mrs. Ashalata
Sen, Mr. Debendra Nath
Sen, Mr. Satindra Nath
Sen Gupta, Mrs. Nellie
Singhi, Mr. Narendra Singh
Sinha, Mr. Bimal Chandra
Thakur, Mr. Pramatha Ranjan

NOES—72.

Abdul Hakim Mia, Mr.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Mr. Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Khaleque, Mr.
Abdul Mannan, Mr. Fakir

Abdullahel Baqui, Mr. Md.
Abdur Rahman Khan (*alias* Nuru Mia), Mr.
Abdus Salam, Mr. Md.
Abul Kalam Shamsuddin, Mr.
Abul Quasem, Mr.
Ahammad Ali, Mr. Mir
Akbar Ali, Maulvi
Ali Ahmed Chowdhury, Mr.
Ali Ahmed Khan, Mr.
Asan Ali Muktear, Mr.
Azizur Rahman, Mr. Syed
Badiuzzaman Muhammad Ilias, Mr.
Bafatuddin Talukdar, Mr. A. K. M.
Barman, Mr. Haran Chandra
Barury, The Hon'ble Mr. Dwarka Nath
Biswas, Dr. Bhola Nath
Biswas, Mr. Gayanath
Duff, Mr. D. I.
Ebrahim Khan, Mr.
Eskandar Ali Khan, Mr.
Faziul Karim, Mr.
Faziul Qadir, Mr.
Fazlur Rahman (Mymensingh), Mr.
Fazlur Rahman (Noakhali), Mr.
Fisk, Mr. F. W.
Habibul Huq, Mr. Syed
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Mr.
Hamiduddin Ahmed, Mr.
Hasan Ali, Mr.
Ilias Ali Molla, Mr.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Luke, Mr.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Mahammad Afzal, Khan Bahadur Syed
Majibar Rahman, Maulvi
Malik, Dr. A. M.
Maniruddin Akhand, Mr.
Martuza Reza Chowdhury, Mr.
Masiuddin Ahmed (*alias* Raja Miah), Mr.
Mazharul Haque, Mr. Abu Taiyab
Mohammed Ali, The Hon'ble Mr.
Muhammad Habibullah Chaudhury, Mr.
Muhammad Idris, Maulvi
Muhammad Israil, Mr.
Muhammad Qumruddin, Mr.
Muhammad Rukonuddin, Mr.
Muhammad Siddique, Dr. Syed
Muzaffar Rahman Choudhury, Mr.
Nasarulla, Mr. K.
Nawab Ali, Mr.
Nazir Hossain Khandkar, Mr.
Nurazzaman, Mr.
Platel, Mr. R. E.
Ray, The Hon'ble Mr. Nagendra Narayan
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Serajuddin Ahmed, Mr. (Midnapore)
Serajuddin Ahmed, Mr. (Gaibandha)
Shamsuddin Ahmed, The Hon'ble Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Chowdhury (*alias* Badsha Mia), Mr.
Shamsuddin Sikdar, Mr. Md.
Sharfuddin Ahmad, Mr.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Tafazzal Ali, Mr.
Taylor, Mr. A. W.
Tofazzal Hossain, Mr.
Yusuf Hossain Chowdhury, Mr.

The Ayes being 50 and the Noes 72, the motion was lost.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-42 p.m. till 4-30 p.m. on Monday, the 17th February, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 17th February, 1947, at 4-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 208 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Government action after Coroner's inquest on the death of Rameswar Banerjee.

*51. **Mr. HEMANTA KUMAR BASU:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware of the verdict of the jury at the inquest of City Coroner on the death of Rameswar Banerjee in November last?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government have taken any steps against the Inspector Hammond?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken?

(*d*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, are the Government considering the desirability of taking any steps against him?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*d*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Coroner was removed from his position for giving verdict against the Police?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: No, Sir.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who was held responsible for this death of Rameswar Banerjee by the Coroner's Court?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: The report of the Coroner's Court says that Rameswar Banerjee was shot down by the bullet fired by Inspector Hammond.

Mr. HEMANTA KUMAR BASU: With reference to (*b*) and (*c*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government did not think it desirable to take steps against Inspector Hammond?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Under the advice of the Legal Adviser of Government, Government does not propose to bring out a case against this Inspector.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who were the persons who gave legal advice?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Legal Advice was given by the Legal Advisers to the Government, i.e., Advocate-General and the Legal Remembrancer.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why Mr. Azizul Haque was removed from his position as Coroner?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Mr. Azizul Haque, as far as I understand, was officiating; not permanent.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is now the policy of Government not to place such dead bodies at the Coroner's inquest as they did in the case of Dhiranjan Sen?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have no information.

Distribution of yarn to fishermen.

*52. **Dr. BHOLANATH BISWAS:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Fisheries Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of the fishermen who have been given yarn this year;

(*b*) the quantity of yarn given out for the fishermen of—

(*i*) Jessore,

(*ii*) Khulna,

(*iii*) Nadia,

(*iv*) Faridpur,

(*v*) Pabna,

(*vi*) Mymensingh, and

(*vii*) Dacca

on rehabilitation scheme;

(*c*) what quantity of yarns has been allotted as quotas for the fishermen of the above districts for the year 1946; and

(*d*) the method of distribution of the yarns in the districts and their subdivisions?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Hossain): (*a*) The information is not available and cannot be secured easily as the yarn was distributed in subdivisions by the local officers.

(*b*) From January to August, 1946—

(*i*) Jessore—258 bales.

(*ii*) Khulna—190 bales.

(*iii*) Nadia—161 bales.

(*iv*) Faridpur—382 bales.

(*v*) Pabna—522 bales.

(*vi*) Mymensingh—374 bales.

(*vii*) Dacca—461 bales.

(*c*) As the supply is inadequate to requirement no definite quota has been allotted to any district. As supplies become available they are distributed *ad hoc* having regard to requirements in the different districts.

(*d*) The yarn is distributed by Subdivisional Officers with the help of Fishery Officers wherever such officers are available in accordance with the instruction of the Fisheries Directorate.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on what basis was the quota of yarn for different districts ascertained?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: On the reports of the local officers of the Fishery Department who made house to house survey in their respective areas.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the supply of yarn for different Districts of Bengal has now improved?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARY: In view of answer (*b*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the quantity of yarn allotted to different districts is in keeping with the requirements of the fishermen?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have already said that the supply is inadequate and it cannot be said to be in keeping with the requirements.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what attempts are being made by the Government to improve the supply of yarn to the fishermen?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Government has been asking the Central Government to increase their provincial quota.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in how many subdivisions fishery officers have been appointed?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I cannot say off-hand.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: In relation to the answer (*b*), yarn for Khulna, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that the yarn for Khulna district was distributed through a District Fishermen's Association which is a Communist organisation?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have stated nowhere that it has been distributed through a District Fishermen's Association.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: If there be no Fishery Officers in a subdivision will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the agency of distribution in that subdivision?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The Subdivisional Officer.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in the matter of distribution of yarn to the fishermen first come first served principle is being followed?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: That is a matter for the Subdivisional Officer to decide locally.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in the event of any yarn distributed through any agency any instruction is received on the distribution——

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a hypothetical question.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: With reference to answer (*d*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how the yarn is distributed where the fishery officers are not available?

Mr. SPEAKER: That has already been answered.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is not a fact that a large number of fisherman all over Bengal are sitting idle for want of yarn?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is already admitted.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that some of the Subdivisional Officers and Fishery Officers indulge in favouritism and nepotism?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion. I disallow that question.

Fishing with modern methods and supply of fish to Calcutta.

***53. Dr. BHOLANATH BISWAS:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of individuals, firms or companies that have obtained fishing rights to fish with modern scientific methods like trawlers, and in what areas;

(*b*) the names of individuals or of the partners of firms or of directors of companies who have obtained fishing rights as above;

(*c*) the terms on which such fishing rights to the above individuals, firms or companies have been leased out; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the supply of fishes to Calcutta has declined after the establishment of the Fisheries Department?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Hossain): (*a*) to (*c*) So far as Government are aware there is no individual firm or company which uses trawlers for fishing and none has asked for any right to such fishing from Government.

(*d*) No.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when was the Fisheries Department established in Bengal?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The Fisheries Department was started in 1942 and its Marketing Section was started in June, 1944.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the ratio of supply of fish to Calcutta now compared to 1941?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I think I should say that the figure from 1945 shows that there is a slight decline compared with the figure of 1944. This is due to causes over which the Department has no control.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: In connection with answers (*a*) to (*c*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any individual or any company makes an approach to Government for supplying fish to Government, is he in a position to do that?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a hypothetical question.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Army has been using trawlers for fishing in the Sundarbans area?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have no information.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government considers the desirability of encouraging people to take to modern scientific methods of fishing?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Government is always prepared to encourage anybody to take to modern scientific methods, if anybody approaches Government.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any definite step has been taken by the Government in course of last two years in order to improve catching of fish by modern scientific methods?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: For any special method employed by Government I would ask for notice.

Decline of population in Chatal subdivision.

*54. **Mr. ANNADA PROSAD CHOWDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the subdivision of Ghatal recorded a decline in population by 1 per cent. in 1901, when the whole district showed an increase by 6 per cent.;

(*ii*) that in 60 years ending in 1931, Chandrakona Municipality showed a decline in population by 71 per cent. inasmuch as it fell from 21,311 to 6,016;

(*iii*) that large number of people succumbed to the epidemic known as Burdwan fever years ago; and

(*iv*) that malady came to stay as malaria and the people have not been able to get over the attack?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of dispensaries in the subdivision;

(*ii*) the quantity of anti-malaria drugs consumed; and

(*iii*) the quantity that would be required, according to expert opinion, for effectively combating the disease?

(*c*) If the quantity of quinine and other anti-malaria drugs be considered insufficient, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what they propose to do to save the people?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that the Civil Surgeon, Midnapore, has from the 7th of August last, ordered to close down 17 of the 34 satellite treatment centres of existing dispensaries;

(*ii*) whether the Assistant Director of Public Health at Tamluk and the Collector and the District Health Officer of the district were consulted; and

(*iii*) if so, what was their opinion?

(*e*) After having closed down 17 centres, what do Government propose to do to compensate the loss in anti-malaria measures?

(*f*) Have Government any contemplation of starting a few model anti-malaria centres in the subdivision in the lines successfully practised by the military in this country to protect the army from attacks of malaria; if so, when and where?

MINISTER in charge of the DEPARTMENT of HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*)(*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) The Chandrakona Municipality showed a decline in population from 11,309 in 1891 to 6,016 in 1931, i.e., 46·82 per cent.

(*iii*) An epidemic of malaria, popularly known as Burdwan fever, prevailed in the district during the last quarter of the past century. The number of people who succumbed to this epidemic is not known.

(*iv*) Malaria is endemic in parts of the district and the inhabitants still suffer from it.

(*b*) (*i*) Eight.

(*ii*) Quantities of anti-malaria drugs issued to Ghatal subdivision during the last 3 years are as follows:—

	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Quinine and Cinchona	276 lbs.	266 lbs.	270 lbs.
Mepacrine		371,500 tablets.	1,000,000 tablets.

(*iii*) It depends on the morbidity rate in a particular year and cannot be accurately predicted.

(*c*) Anti-malaria drugs are now being supplied according to the requirements of the area concerned.

(*d*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) The order to close down 50 per cent. of the satellite centres was passed as a general one for all districts of Presidency and Burdwan Divisions. Opinions of the Civil Surgeons of all these districts were invited. Civil Surgeon, Midnapore, reported that it had been decided at a meeting presided over by the Collector and attended by the Assistant Director of Public Health, District Health Officer and himself that the number of satellite centres should not be reduced. Government considered this view in consultation with Deputy Surgeon-General (Auxiliary Government Hospital) and Director of Public Health and were of opinion that the position in Midnapore district did not call for special treatment. It was, therefore, decided that as in other districts the number of satellite centres in Midnapore district also should be reduced by 50 per cent.

(*e*) Government have launched an anti-malaria campaign with intensive distribution of anti-malaria drugs to all malaria patients by house to house visits.

(*f*) Provision for anti-malaria units has been made in the Post-War Development Scheme.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why in view of the fact that the population in Chandrakona Municipality is on the decline from 1891, was the number of dispensaries in that area reduced?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I do not accept the contention of the honourable member that it is on the decline. If the honourable member would kindly refer to answer (*a*)(*ii*), he will find that therein I have stated that the Chandrakona municipality showed a decline in population from 11,309 in 1891 to 6,016 in 1931, i.e., 46·82 per cent. We are not in a position to state the actual figure so far as 1947 is concerned.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have ascertained that the full number of satellite centres were not required for the district of Midnapore?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir. If the honourable member will please refer to my answer, he will find it.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why in spite of decline from 1891 to 1931, Government did not enquire whether there was any further decline subsequent to 1931?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The present position, as the honourable member will find out very soon within about half an hour, is very encouraging, and the mortality rate has gone down considerably; and if the improvement is maintained, then there will be no question of decline in population; on the other hand there will be an increase in population.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: With reference to answer (*e*), viz., Government have launched an anti-malaria campaign with intensive distribution of anti-malaria drugs to all malaria patients by house to house visits, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if this campaign is for Ghatal only?

Mr. SPEAKER: The question refers only to Ghatal. Therefore this question does not arise.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when this campaign was started?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The position is this. We are taking up the question of anti-malaria drive in the province. There is an intensive campaign in the Ghatal subdivision and the Health staff posted there is much more than elsewhere. We have got a Special Assistant Director of Public Health posted in the district of Midnapore for flood relief work and for public health measures in connection with the distress in the district.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any definite sign of improvement in the increase of population.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: There is a definite improvement in the district as also throughout the province, and therefore Government held that there was no special necessity of retaining the satellite centres. Public health campaign was intensified in the district of Midnapore and availability of anti-malaria drugs in Midnapore is much more than in any other district.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps Government generally take if there is a decline in the population in a particular area?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state since when the anti-malaria campaign in Ghatal has been intensified?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid I cannot give the date from which the campaign was intensified, but anti-malaria operations are going on in the district from 1943 or 1944.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what does he mean by "Burdwan fever"? Is it Burdwan malaria, or Burdwan diarrhœa, or Burdwan cholera, or what?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA MAHANTY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether 47 per cent. of decline of population in an area is not sufficient to call for special treatment?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: With reference to answer (*d*)(*ii*) and (*iii*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the decision is applicable to the subdivision of Contai?

Mr. SPEAKER: The question refers to Ghatal only. So that question does not arise.

Mr. HASSAN ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in some districts the satellite centres have altogether been closed down?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir. In some parts they have been totally closed down.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the incidence of malarial attack is the highest during the year 1946-47 within the last decade?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The incidence of malaria in 1946-47 has been least during the last two decades.

Rice and paddy procured by Procurement Department in Khulna.

***55. Mr. RAJENDRANATH SARKAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the quantity of paddy and rice purchased or procured by the Procurement Department in the district of Khulna during the current year, showing the figures separately in each subdivision of the district;

(*b*) the quantity of paddy recently seized in the police-station Shyamnagar in the Satkhira subdivision of the district of Khulna;

(*c*) the prospect of *aus* and *aman* paddy of the district of Khulna; and

(*d*) whether Khulna is a surplus district in the estimation of the Government?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Gofran):

	Rice.	Paddy.
	Maunds.	Maunds.
(*a*) Sadar subdivision	40,562	186,934
Bagerhat	37	284,032
Satkhira	1,166	91,182

(*b*) 16,390 maunds 20 seers.

(*c*) Very good.

(*d*) Yes.

Mr. RAJENDRA NATH SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the normal outturn of paddy per year in the district of Khulna?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I am afraid, I cannot answer offhand.

Mr. RAJENDRA NATH SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the yearly demand for consumption of paddy in the district of Khulna?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I am sorry, I cannot answer offhand.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state at what prices rice and paddy are being purchased in the district of Khulna?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I am sorry, I am not in a position to answer offhand.

Mr. RAJENDRA NATH SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any portion of the quantity of paddy and rice that has been procured has been released for distribution among the people of Khulna, and if so, what is that quantity?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Yes, necessarily, but I cannot give you the exact quantity.

Mr. RAJENDRA NATH SARKAR: With reference to answer (*c*) is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in many parts of Khulna the standing crops have been destroyed by insects?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I have no such information.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the prices of rice and paddy have been reduced recently?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I cannot answer offhand.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what has been the procurement of paddy and rice during the month of January in the district of Khulna?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: I am sorry, offhand I cannot give the reply.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give the exact percentage of decrease or increase of procurement in Khulna since direct purchase started from the agencies?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I am sorry, I want notice.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the maximum and minimum price of rice and paddy?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already answered that.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the quantity of rice that Government had programmed to procure from the district of Khulna during the last year?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I am sorry it is not possible for me to answer offhand.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if such procurement has been done through agents or directly by Government.

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: It has so long been done through agents.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who were the agents for procurement in this area?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Offhand it is not possible for me to say.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: In the light of the answer given by the Hon'ble Minister to question (*d*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that there are deficit pockets in the district of Khulna?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. The Khulna district as a whole is a surplus area.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the price of paddy and rice has recently been reduced in the different districts of Bengal where they are being procured by the Government of Bengal?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Yes, but I won't be in a position to give the exact figure.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: I do not want the exact figure—whether it has been reduced or not?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I think it has been reduced.

Mr. RAJENDRA NATH SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the quantities of food-grains stated in answer (*a*) were disposed of?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: It is impossible for me to reply offhand.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is considering the desirability, in the matter of carrying out of the recently made Government policy, of replacing agents by direct agents of the Government?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Yes, it is receiving the consideration of Government.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that producers of rice and paddy do get much less than the price fixed——

Mr. SPEAKER: That is too general a question.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: It is not a general question. Is Government aware that producers get much less price than the price fixed by Government on account of the agents?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I am sorry I cannot reply to this question.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why the prices of rice and paddy have been reduced in 1947—what is the principle on which they have been reduced?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Of course, it is not possible for me to give the general principle on which this reduction was actually made, but to give an answer to a question of this nature I will require some time. For this I want notice.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what quantity of rice is likely to be surplus in the district of Khulna?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: This also I cannot reply offhand.

Dearth of fishermen's yarn in Kishoreganj.

*56. **Mr. PRAFULLA RANJAN SARKAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state if it is a fact

(*i*) that there is extreme dearth of yarn of fishermen in the Kishoreganj subdivision;

(*ii*) that the quota of yarn for the months of June and July, 1946, has not yet reached there; and

(*iii*) that there has been maldistribution by the handling agent for yarn in the Kishoreganj subdivision, namely, the Multipurpose Co-operative Society Ltd. in respect of yarn distribution amongst the fishermen of Kishoreganj subdivision?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*iii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government are taking to check the maldistribution of yarn by the said society?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Gofran): (*a*)(*i*) Yes. This has been alleviated to a certain extent subsequent to the June/July despatch by the allocation of 40 bales as a special allotment over and above the despatch of August to January quotas.

(*ii*) The June/July quotas were actually despatched on 12th July, 1946. There was a little delay because of difficulties regarding payment between the mofussil agent and the handling agent.

(*iii*) No. Yarn for fishermen is distributed under supervision of the District Fishery Officer and Subdivisional Officer.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that under the supervision of the District Fishery Officer and the Subdivisional Officer the multi-purposes co-operative society distributes yarn to the fishermen?

Mr. SPEAKER: The answer is there. He has said "No".

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: He has said that there has been no maldistribution, but he has not said that it is not distributed by the multi-purposes co-operative society.

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Distribution is actually conducted by the District Fishery Officer under the direct supervision of the Subdivisional Officer.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that a portion of this yarn goes to the black market?

(No reply.)

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the quota of yarn for November and December, 1946, and January, 1947, has reached Kishoreganj?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Yes, it has gone, I think.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, my question has not been answered.

Mr. SPEAKER: We have heard much about black-marketing. Everything goes into the black market. That is a common knowledge.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is delay in despatching yarn even when there is ready payment made?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: No, there is no reason for delay if the payment is made.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the additional allotment of yarn will be continued?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: It will depend on the stock position. It cannot be replied now.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there are no agencies in the rural areas for distribution of yarn to the fishermen though they have to walk a distance of 20 to 25 miles for getting only ¼ lb. or 1/8 lb. of yarn?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Yes, that is the position actually.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Is Government aware that there are three registered co-operative societies of fishermen in the Kishoreganj subdivision?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I cannot reply offhand. I will require notice.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will consider the desirability of distributing yarn through those societies?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: This will receive due consideration of Government.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Free and compulsory primary education.

20. Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware that there has been a countrywide demand for introducing—

(*i*) the free and compulsory primary education system in the Province; and

(*ii*) its compulsory aspect in those districts where the other part has already been given effect to?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that its free primary aspect was given effect to first in the district of Mymensingh?

(*c*) Does the Government consider the desirability of including the district of Mymensingh as the first in the list of the districts where free and compulsory both aspects will be given effect to?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain): (*a*) Government is aware of such demand.

(*b*) Mymensingh is one of the 7 districts where free primary education was first introduced.

(*c*) The matter is under consideration.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this free and compulsory primary education system will be given effect to throughout Bengal at a time?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: No, only partially in certain districts.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of the districts selected where this scheme will be given effect to?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: That has not yet been finally selected.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what principle he will follow in selecting the districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: That has not been decided either.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of free primary schools started in the district of Mymensingh and the number of students taught?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: It is in the region of 3,000 and odd.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he will select those districts where primary education cess was introduced first?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: That is the idea.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of those districts where primary education cess was first introduced?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: There is a difference of opinion. One opinion is that one district from each Division should be taken up.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: I want the names of the districts where primary education cess was first introduced.

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I cannot give their names.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether by seven districts he means that primary education will be introduced in the district as a whole or partially?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Ours is a five-year programme. The districts which are to take up will comprise about one-fourth of Bengal. It will be covered in five years.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that pressure is being given to deprive those districts where primary education cess was first introduced?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: No.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the very purpose for which the Primary Education Bill was passed is being defeated by not having primary education made compulsory.

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: It is not exactly defeated; people not getting the benefit of it, as they ought to. The purpose is not exactly defeated. I should say that the purpose is not fully attained because compulsory primary education is not being enforced.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: The Hon'ble Minister has stated that Mymensingh is one of the seven districts where primary education is going to be introduced. Do I understand that Mymensingh is to be taken up for this purpose as a whole?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Yes, but it will be covered in five years as I told you.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what areas or which unions or subdivisions are being taken up in the first instance?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: The idea is to take two unions in each thana, so that there may not be any complaint.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the progress of primary education is very meagre compared to the cess and tax that are being paid by the people?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I do not think so. The figures rather indicate that there has been very great advancement in the field of primary education.

Mr. HEMANTA KUMAR BASU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long it will take to enforce free and primary education throughout Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: At the rate we contemplate, we will be able to cover it in 20 years.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he thinks that the primary education scheme will be successful in view of strike by primary school teachers of which notice has just been given?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: That is more than I can say.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the strike notice?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not within the purview of this question.

B. M. College, Barisal.

21. Mr. MONORANJAN GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*a*) that Professor Prafulla Ranjan Chakravorty and Sj. Sudhir Kumar Aich, both members of the teaching staff of the B. M. College, Barisal, were arrested and detained without trial in 1942;

(*b*) that the said B. M. College authorities gave them leave of absence during the period of their detention without trial;

(*c*) that Government threatened to stop or reduce its grant-in-aid to the said college for granting the said leave of absence to Sjs. Chakravorty and Aich;

(*d*) that recently the Director of Public Instruction has written to the said college authorities that the Government did not agree to the re-employment of Sjs. Chakravorty and Aich and as a result these teachers have not been reinstated in their posts at the said college; and

(*e*) if the answer to (*d*) is in the affirmative, do the Government propose to reconsider their decision and direct the withdrawal of the letter of the Director of Public Instruction to the B. M. College authorities disagreeing to the reinstatement of Professor Prafulla Ranjan Chakravorty and Sj. Sudhir Kumar Aich?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain): (*a*), (*b*) and (*d*) Yes.

(*c*) The Governing Body of the college was informed that the Government grant would be withheld if they failed to dispense with the services of the Professors in question.

(*e*) No.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why Government informed the Barisal College authorities that their grant would be withheld unless they dispensed with the services of the Professors in question?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Because Government thinks it undesirable that such teachers should be employed. It will affect the students also.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why Government considered the services of these Professors undesirable?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Because their political activities were of a subversive nature and they were connected with terrorists. But since then I may add the matter has been taken up for re-consideration.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: In view of the answer (*a*), (*b*) and (*d*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is a definite policy of the present Government to preclude ex-detenus from appointments in any Government or Government aided institution?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: No, there is no such policy.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the present Cabinet is pursuing the reactionary and anti-national policy of section 93 regime so far as the appointments of ex-detenus are concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Definitely not; otherwise it would not have been taken up for re-consideration again.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why Government consider those gentlemen to be undesirable to be teachers and Professors if they are not considered undesirable to occupy Treasury Benches or seats in the Assembly?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Because gentlemen who occupy treasury benches are not in charge of young impressionable youths.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any legal bar for any teachers or Professors of Government aided schools and colleges to dabble in politics?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I do not know, but it is not proper for teachers to be in active politics.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Cabinet considers the patriotic activities of these gentlemen as undesirable?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Certainly not, but their activities must be of such a nature that they may not affect the impressionable youths if they are placed in charge of such youths.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what activities of these teachers and Professors seem to Government to be their disqualifications?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I have already answered that.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: I want to know what are their activities. "Subversive" is a vague term.

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I am not prepared to add anything more.

Mr. ABDUL MOMIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who is the father of politics? (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: It is for the honourable member to say that.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when Government expect to come to a decision in relation to their re-consideration of the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Another department of Government has been referred to. I cannot say when it will come to a decision.

Non-availability of fine cloths from cloth ration shops.

22. Mr. SUKUMAR DUTTA: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department aware that suitable cloths cannot be had from the ration shops against the cloth folders now in force in Calcutta area?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what arrangement is proposed to be made for the supply of suitable cloths in the market?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the cloth folders now in force in Calcutta area will lapse automatically after 30th September, 1946?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of extending the period of validity of cloth folders to at least another three months from 30th September, 1946, as was done in respect of folders for previous periods?

MINISTER in charge of the DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Gofran): (*a*) and (*b*) The supplies of superfine and fine varieties of cloth are restricted. The Bengal Government cannot procure enough cloth in fine and superfine varieties to satisfy public demand. Varieties like finer qualities of shirting, coating, drill, etc., are also in short supply. Such supplies as are available are distributed equitably among all the shops.

(*c*) This is not a fact.

(*d*) The uncashed coupons for the fourth quarter on the first series of cloth folders will continue to be valid till 31st December, 1946.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Office of the Coroner for the City of Calcutta.

***57. Mr. JYOTI BASU:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the name, qualifications and previous experience of the present incumbent of the office of the Coroner for the City of Calcutta and of his immediate predecessor;

(*ii*) the date when and the circumstances under which the present Coroner was appointed as also his predecessor;

(*iii*) if the present incumbent even acted as an Honorary Presidency Magistrate;

(*iv*) if so, what has been his record of work as such; and

(*v*) if it is a fact that the Coroner is appointed by the Government on the recommendation of or in consultation with the Calcutta Police?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that work of a number of officials of the Calcutta Police in connection with the shootings upon student demonstrators in the third week of November, 1945, was condemned by the previous incumbent of the office of the Coroner?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, he proposes to take in the matter?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*), (*i*) and (*ii*) At the time the question was admitted, Mr. S. N. Mukherjee, a retired Police Magistrate and Honorary Presidency Magistrate, was acting as Coroner having been appointed with effect from the 1st April, 1946, pending the selection of a permanent incumbent in the ordinary way on the expiry of the term of the previous incumbent, Mr. A. Haque, M.A., B.L., BAR.-AT-LAW. Mr. Haque was appointed to be the Coroner of Calcutta on the 1st April, 1941, for a period of 5 years. The present Coroner is Mr. N. C. Ganguly, retired District and Sessions Judge, who has been appointed by Government on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission for a period of 5 years with effect from the 1st October, 1946.

(*iii*) and (*iv*) Mr. S. N. Mukherjee has been a Presidency Magistrate since 25th May, 1940, and his work as such is satisfactory.

(*v*) No. The Coroner is appointed by Government on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission, Bengal. Only in the case of filling any officiating appointment, the appointment is made in consultation with the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Before this Ministry took office, the Coroner's unfavourable comments were carefully considered and it was decided that no action was necessary. I do not propose to take any further action in the matter.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in referring the matter to the Public Service Commission any community was specified?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: No.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there was any instance of granting extension to some of the Coroners?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I ask for notice.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the emolument of the post?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I ask for notice.

Mr. RAM HARI ROY: With reference to answer (*b*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who were the officials of the Calcutta police who were condemned by the Coroner?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have said in reply to a previous question that the Coroner only mentioned the case of shooting by Sergeant Hammond without justification.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister please consider the desirability of stopping this practice of consulting the Commissioner of Police when appointing the Coroner?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: In appointing the Coroner the Commissioner of Police is not consulted but the appointment is made on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Is it not a fact that for officiating appointment the Commissioner of Police is consulted?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Yes; that has been the practice.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when Mr. N. C. Ganguly retired and what is his present age?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: He is a retired man and he has been appointed only temporarily.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: With reference to answer (*c*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with regard to the Coroner's unfavourable comment, to whom it was unfavourable?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: It is stated to be an unfavourable comment because the Government was of opinion that it was not rightly made.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Mr. A. Haque applied for an extension?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I ask for notice.

Alleged shadowing of Mr. Humayun Kabir, M.L.C., by Intelligence Branch.

*58. **Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware that agents of the Intelligence Branch have been shadowing Mr. Humayun Kabir, M.L.C., since August, 1942?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether these agents were appointed under orders of the Government of Bengal;

(*ii*) if so, whether any reports have been submitted by the agents up till now; and

(*iii*) whether any action has been taken on any such reports?

(*c*) If no action has been taken, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why public money has been wasted on these agents for so many years?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that many M.L.A.s and M.L.C.s have been shadowed by the Intelligence Branch?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Arms licence applications in Pabna Sadar and Serajganj subdivisions.

*59. **Mr. SURES CHANDRA DAS GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of applications made for arms licences in Pabna Sadar and Serajganj subdivisions respectively during the last three years and how many of these applications were from Hindus and how many from Muslims in each of these subdivisions; and

(*b*) the number of such licences issued according to communities during the last three years in Pabna Sadar and Serajganj subdivisions respectively specifying details of such licences?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): A statement is laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to starred question No. 59.

PADNA DISTRICT.

(a) Number of applications made for arms licences during the last three years.

	Sadar subdivision.	Sirajganj subdivision.
Hindus	155	49
Muslims	247	51
Others	11	4
Total ..	413	104

(b) Number of such licences issued during the last three years.

	Total.	Details.						
		B. L. gun.	M. L. gun.	Rifle.	Air rifle.	Pistol.	Revolver.	Dagger.
Sadar subdivision.								
Hindus ..	70	56	10	1	1	1	1	..
Muslims ..	97	36	57	..	..	1	3	..
Others ..	10	7	..	2	..	..	1	..
Serajganj subdivision.								
Hindus ..	32	32	..	..	..	..	..	..
Muslims ..	31	29	1	1	..	..	..	..
Others ..	3	1	..	..	1	..	..	1

Statements in connection with Muslim League's declaration of Direct Action Day.

***60. Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether his attention has been drawn to any statements made in connection with the Muslim League's declaration of Direct Action Day on the 16th August, 1946, by Alhaj Khwaja Nazimuddin which appeared in the local newspapers;

(*b*) whether Government considers statements such as referred to above as direct incitement to violence and likely to lead to disturbances; and

(*c*) what precautionary measures, if any, has Government in contemplation to take to maintain peace and tranquillity?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Such precautions as are considered necessary will be taken including the holding ready of the Police Force against possible trouble.

Gazetted officers of Civil Supplies Department at Rajshahi.

*61. **Mr. MADAR BUX:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the present number of gazetted officers that are at Rajshahi in the Civil Supplies Department; and

(*ii*) how many of them are Muslims?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, he intends to take if there is no Muslim gazetted officer?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Cofran): (*a*)(*i*) Eight.

(*ii*) Three.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is going to publish the Civil List which has been discontinued for some time?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Alleged seizure of paddy in some subdivisions of Khulna.

*62. **Mr. RAJENDRANATH SARKAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state the details of the seizure of paddy by the Subdivisional Officer, Satkhira, and the Subdivisional Officer, Sadar, in several houses in police-stations Shyamnagar and Dakope respectively in the district of Khulna recently?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Subdivisional Officer, Satkhira, along with a large number of police, took recourse to violence in the process of the seizure of paddy?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Cofran): (*a*) The Subdivisional Officers of Satkhira and Sadar in the district of Khulna did not seize paddy in any house in police-stations Shyamnagar and Dakope, respectively.

(*b*) No.

Mr. JASIMUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who seized this paddy?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Departmental officers.

Mr. JASIMUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who were those departmental officers?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I want notice.

Procurement of good quality rice from Midnapore district.

*63. **Mr. SERAJUDDIN AHAMMAD:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that good quality rice is being procured by Government from Midnapore district for export to other districts; and

(*ii*) that reconditioned bad stuff is being released for rationing in Midnapore?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of stopping this practice immediately?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Cofran): (*a*)(*i*) Yes. Rice is procured in Midnapore but not for the sole purpose of export to other districts. Local needs are also met from such procured stock.

(*ii*) This is not a fact. It is, however, true that about 30,000 maunds of old stock held by the District Controller have been made over for rationing but this was done after the stock had been examined by Government experts and certified to be of good quality and in good condition. The balance of rationing requirements has been and is being met from the procured stock of the district. The old stocks mentioned were also stocks procured from the district.

(*b*) Only the surplus stocks available are moved out of the district, generally to Calcutta and such export could not be stopped without the Government's food programme being dislocated.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: With reference to answer (*a*)(*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what portion of the entire rice stock was retained for consumption in the district and what portion was exported outside?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: After meeting local requirement the surplus is exported.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the estimate of local requirement?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I am sorry I cannot say offhand.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the agency through which rice is procured in the district of Midnapore at present?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Now Government have taken up direct procurement.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the price of rice has been recently reduced by Government under the direct procurement scheme?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I want notice.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what arrangement for storage exists in the district of Midnapore?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I ask for notice.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state at what price Government have been purchasing rice in Midnapore and at what price it is being sold in Calcutta?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I ask for notice.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHAYA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that rice is being purchased in the district of Midnapore at Rs. 10-14 per maund and sold in Calcutta at Rs. 16-4 per maund?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I have no information.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the old stock of rice deteriorated in quality because of bad storage and was unfit for human consumption when released?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I have no information.

Mr. ANNADA PROSAD CHOUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the stocks of rice which were deteriorating were sold to the Civil Supplies Department as good quality rice?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I have no such information.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: With reference to answer (*a*) (*ii*), namely, that the old stock was made over for rationing after it had been examined by Government experts, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who were those experts?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: The stock that is released for consumption in rationing areas is certainly examined by departmental experts as regards its quality.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that the price of paddy in the district of Midnapore has been reduced under the direct procurement scheme to the disadvantage of the cultivators?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Alleged forceful seizure of paddy from one Dinanath De of Nakipur, police-station Shyamnagar.

***64. Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA RAY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department aware—

(*i*) that on 29th July, 1946, the Subdivisional Officer of the Satkhira subdivision in Khulna district raided the house of Dinanath De of village Nakipur, police-station Shyamnagar, with the help of armed police and carried away the entire stock of his paddy in spite of the said Dinanath De holding an appropriate licence; and

(*ii*) that when protested against such action the Subdivisional Officer declared that he did not care if local paddy was left or not as he must seize paddy?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Satkhira subdivision of Khulna district is considered a surplus or deficit area; and

(*ii*) whether the Government have issued any instruction to Subdivisional Officers of deficit areas to seize paddy and/or rice?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the rate per maund of paddy fixed by the Government as compensation for such seizure of rice; and

(*ii*) what rate has been paid to the said Dinanath De as compensation?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Gofran): (*a*) No.

(*b*) (*i*) Satkhira subdivision is a surplus area.

(*ii*) No.

(*c*) (*i*) Compensation in such cases is paid at the full purchasing price fixed by the Government for the district *minus* the differentials for handling and transport from the place to the nearest main purchasing point. The purchasing price for the district of Khulna is Rs.6-4 per maund.

(*ii*) Dinanath De will be paid compensation at Rs.6-1 per maund.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any enquiry was actually made in connection with the allegation?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Yes, departmental enquiry was made.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA RAY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the agency for this enquiry?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Local administration.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on what calculation was the price of paddy in Khulna fixed at Rs. 6-4 per maund?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I am sorry I cannot reply.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in the opinion of the Government this price is profitable to the agriculturist?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Without examining the question I cannot reply offhand. I require notice.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA RAY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether actually any seizure was made from Dinanath De's place?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: I think, Sir, a quantity of paddy was actually seized from his house.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA RAY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why that paddy was seized?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Because he had surplus stock.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, in view of the reply given to (*a*)(*ii*), is it the policy of the Government first to leave such stock as is necessary for local consumption before exporting seized stock?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Surplus is determined in comparison with the estimated consumption for the district.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: In view of the answer just given, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if surplus or deficit is determined in relation to the whole district or the subdivision so that cordons might be caused?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: It is not possible for me to reply offhand.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA RAY: In view of the fact that the price of paddy per maund is Rs. 6-4 in the district, will the Hon'ble Minister kindly state why Rs. 6-1 was given as compensation?

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Minus the differentials for handling from the place where it was seized up to the point of purchase.

Price of jute and jute manufactures.

*65. **Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that the Jute (Price Control) Order, 1945, was promulgated as a war measure fixing maximum and minimum prices at which jute may be purchased or sold and the maximum prices at which jute manufactures may be purchased or sold;

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that the price of jute manufactures was, as compared with the price of jute, fixed at a much higher level;

(*iii*) whether the jute mills made huge profits during the war at the expense of the poor jute growers and the prices of jute shares began to soar and at present has risen to phenomenal height as compared with 1941;

(*iv*) whether the price control of raw jute is scheduled to expire on 30th September next and whether the Indian Jute Mills' Association has sent a memorandum on 7th June last demanding that the price control of jute be maintained at the present level until the conditions of supply and demand be adjusted;

(*v*) whether the attention of the Hon'ble Minister had been drawn to the fact stated in the *Capital* of June, 1946, that at the end of last jute season the stock of raw jute was six lakhs of bales but at the end of this season, i.e., June, the amount of stock will be insignificant; and

(*vi*) whether due to heavy rainfall there has been this year extensive destruction of jute crop in different parts of Bengal?

(*b*) If the answer to (*v*) and (*vi*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the Jute (Price Control) Order of 1945 in which the maximum price of jute has been fixed at Rs.17 a maund be not removed and the minimum price of jute be fixed at Rs.25 a maund?

MINISTER in charge of the DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, LABOUR and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed): (*a*), (*i*) and (*iv*) Yes.

(*ii*) I am assured that the price ratio between jute and jute manufactures in the preceding years was maintained in the Jute (Price Control) Order.

(*iii*) The greater part of any increased profits which may have been made by the mills was absorbed in payments of Excess Profits Tax and other taxation, thus increasing the general revenues of the country. The present market prices of Jute Mill shares are greatly in excess of real values.

(*v*) The reference is probably to the article published at page 1189 of the *Capital*, dated the 27th June, 1946, but this article does not say that jute stock at the end of the last season was six lakhs bales. The article mentions estimated domestic consumption of jute to be six lakhs bales.

According to the Indian Jute Mills' Association's Monthly Summary of Jute and Gunny Statistics for June, 1946, the total carry over at the end of the seasons 1944-45 and 1945-46 was 2,902,095 and 2,070,125 bales respectively. The stock on 30th June, 1946, has been estimated at 3,256,630 bales and the carry over at the end of 1946-47 season at 20 lakhs of bales.

(*vi*) Serious damage was caused particularly to the low land "jute crop" in the districts of Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogra and Mymensingh and to a lesser extent in the districts of Pabna, Dacca, Tippera and the Chuadanga subdivision of the Nadia district due to untimely heavy rainfall.

(*b*) Jute (Price Control) Order, 1945, lapsed on the 30th September, 1946. Jute has now been decontrolled as it was no longer considered necessary to fix its price.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the discrepancy between the price of jute and that of jute manufactures was due to the clique of the Indian Jute Mills Association—very great in the years preceding 1945 when the Jute (Price Control) Order was promulgated?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: It is very difficult for me to say whether it was due to clique or conspiracy.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: In view of the answer which was given that the price was equal to the price which was before, does not the Hon'ble Minister think that it is his duty definitely to state what was the difference of prices before the years 1945 and what was the ratio between these prices after the Order was promulgated? This is the most important part of the question and the Hon'ble Minister should state the answers, otherwise the whole of my question goes to nothing.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Would you please repeat?

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: My question is this. What was the price, what is the difference in price between the price of jute and the price of jute manufactures in the year, say; 1944?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I am sorry I cannot answer offhand.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: That was my objection. The whole question is useless.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have got a reply.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: This question may be held over.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I may tell my friend the answer has been given. After the decontrol of the Jute (Price Control) Order the jute prices rose from Rs. 17 and Rs. 19 to Rs. 28 and Rs. 35. The price is even today ruling between Rs. 28 and Rs. 32. Therefore, I think these questions do not arise at the present moment. As regards the future we are taking bigger steps so that the cultivators of Bengal may be assured a stable price and that the whole of jute manufacture or jute trade might be controlled by Government in the proper manner. That is what we are going to do.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that due to this discrepancy in the price of jute and the price of jute manufacture after 1945 the peasants of Bengal suffered and the jute mill manufacturers made huge profits?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I will examine that and see what is the position.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister please explain as to how he has computed the real value of jute shares?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I cannot tell you offhand.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to what he considers the differences in the market price and the real value of jute shares?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: At the present moment or in 1945?

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: As you like.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: As you like! I cannot say.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: The question must be referring to some particular period of time.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Certainly the price of shares rose; at the present time the price of shares has fallen.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: My question was, in relation to any particular period of time when the question was replied to or at the present moment, as to what the Hon'ble Minister considers the difference in the market value of shares and their real value.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: That requires examination.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to the Hon'ble Minister's answer (*iii*), last sentence—the present market prices of Jute Mill shares are greatly in excess of real value—what is the extent to which the prices are in excess of the real values?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: That also requires examination.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on the basis of what data did he give this answer that market prices of Jute Mill shares are greatly in excess of real values? What are the data on which he relied in giving this answer?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I will examine that. All the papers are not before me at the present moment.

Mr. SPEAKER: Questions over.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(*After adjournment.*)

Short-notice question.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir. My friend, Mr. Manoranjan Dhar tabled a short-notice question regarding firing on the student processionists in the Mymensingh town on the 22nd January last and for that we are anxious to know the fate of that question.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the question has been referred to the Department concerned and unless the Hon'ble Minister gives his consent we cannot do anything.

Mr. K. NASARULLA: We are examining that question

Holiday.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Sir, may I mention before we take up the business of the House that 19th has been declared a holiday? That is a day for fast to the Hindus. May I suggest that 20th also be declared as a holiday so far as the work in this Assembly is concerned because it will be very difficult for the members on this side of the House to attend the Assembly on the 20th after the fast? I understand that the Finance Minister is agreeable to this. So I would like you to accept my suggestion.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will examine this question and tomorrow I will decide it. I have not got the programme before me now. We will decide it tomorrow.

Point of Privilege regarding Supply of Budget papers.

Mr. A. F. STARK: On a point of privilege, Sir. We find that some of the members are being supplied with Budget papers, but we are being refused.

Mr. SPEAKER: The usual practice is to distribute the papers just as the Hon'ble Finance Minister rises to deliver his speech. Now, we find that some of the copies have been supplied to some of the members. Take it from me that those copies have not been supplied here in this House. Some members went to the office and found the Budget speech there and took it.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir——

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, it will be convenient for us if we are supplied with the copies of the speech before.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: It will be supplied to you just as I shall begin.

Sir, I rise to present the Budget for the year 1947-48——

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: On a point of order, Sir. It is the convention of this House that the Budget speech is circulated as soon as the Finance Minister gets up.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, as soon as the Finance Minister gets up.

Mr. PRAMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: On a point of privilege, Sir. One honourable member has got a copy. Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee has got a copy.

Mr. K. NASARULLA: He is the leader of a party. He is an exception.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: Sir, the difficulty is some members have been supplied and some have not been supplied.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Sir, are we to go to the lobbies for getting them?

Mr. SPEAKER: You will get it just now.

Budget Estimates for 1947-48.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to present the Budget for the year 1947-48.

All right-thinking men must deplore the grave turmoil through which this Province, in common with several other parts of India, has passed in recent months. At a time like this when enormous tracts, devastated by the War continue to be out of production both in regard to foodstuff and other essential commodities, it is imperatively necessary that all the available energy of mankind should be harnessed to the task of overcoming these deficiencies and restoring the normal amenities of life. There can be no greater misfortune than that efforts and resources should, at such a juncture, be dissipated in strife and discord which not only jeopardise the chances of economic recovery but also shake the very foundations of social security. It is earnestly to be hoped that the outburst of insensate frenzy witnessed during the last few months has been but a passing manifestation of malaise in the body politic of the country and that sobered by the experience of what has happened, men will settle down to constructive endeavours in a spirit of mutual toleration and goodwill.

As was naturally to be expected, the disturbed conditions which prevailed in recent months have left their mark on the budgetary prospects of the year. On the receipt side they have impeded the inflow of revenue under certain heads, the most notable instances of diminished yield being 50 lakhs under Sales Tax owing to unsettled conditions of business; and an almost equal amount under country spirits owing to the closure of liquor shops in Calcutta for a considerable length of time. On the expenditure side the effect has been two-fold. On the one hand, very heavy expenditure, amounting to close upon 2 crores has had to be undertaken for the relief and rehabilitation of riot victims and refugees; and expenditure on the maintenance of law and order has also had to be substantially augmented. On the other hand, the emergency having greatly accentuated the difficulties of obtaining suitable material and personnel, the progress of works both within and outside the Development Programme particularly under Irrigation and Civil Works, has been greatly retarded. How far the rate of progress has fallen below expectation can be judged from the fact that the original provision of 12 crores for the Development Programme in the current year stands amended to a little over 8 crores in the Revised.

The Budget for the coming year has been framed on the assumption that conditions will continue to be normal and that no serious obstacle will arise either to the accrual of revenue or to the progress of execution of Budgetary plans. Some idea of the dimension of these plans will be obtained from the fact that the provision for Development Projects included in the Budget for the coming year amounts to close upon 16 crores.

I may here refer briefly to the details of the financial arrangement in regard to schemes included in the Development Programme. The Government of India will make available to the Province the entire amount required for Development Projects in the current year as well as in 1947-48. For productive or self-financing schemes which are expected, on completion, to yield an adequate return over the outlay, the Central Government will advance the requisite amount by way of loan. For non-productive schemes, outright grants will be made from the Central Post-War Reconstruction Fund to cover the actual expenditure in each of the years. The effect of this financial arrangement is that no part of the expenditure relating to Development Projects included in these estimates devolves on the normal revenues of the Province. In other words what may be called the "basic" Budget is not affected by the Development Programme. Provisions for non-productive schemes financed by outright grants from the Centre have been made under appropriate major heads in the Revenue Section of the Budget while productive projects, financed by loans have been exhibited under Capital Heads outside the Revenue Account.

Turning to details, let me first review the Revised Estimates for the current year.

The House will recall that according to original estimates presented in July last, the total revenue expected in the current year was of the order of 42½ crores out of which 10½ crores represented grants from the Centre for the financing of unproductive Development Projects. The yield from normal sources of revenue was thus estimated at 32 crores. The corresponding figures for the Revised are: Total revenue 38¾ crores; Central grant included in this total for financing unproductive Development Projects 7 crores; Normal revenue 31¾ crores. It will be observed that this figure is only slightly less than the original estimate of 32 crores. I have already explained that our receipts from Sales Tax and from Excise Duty on country spirits should have been substantially larger had not conditions deviated so widely from normal in the course of the year. The yield from Income-tax is also expected to be lower than the original estimate by about a crore according to the latest information furnished by the Government of India. Almost the entire amount of these deficiencies has fortunately been made up by improvements spread over a number of heads, the most important being an increase of 60 lakhs under Customs and 50 lakhs under Stamps. The larger yield under Customs is due to enhancement of the Central export duty on Jute with effect from October last; and that under Stamps is distributed evenly between Court-fees and Non-Judicial stamps. In total, as I have said, there will be little variation between our original and revised estimates so far as our ordinary revenue receipts are concerned.

On the expenditure side the original estimate was 52 crores including 10½ crores on account of Development Projects financed by outright grants from the Government of India. The ordinary expenditure for the year was thus estimated at 41½ crores. The Revised Estimates also provide for a total expenditure of 52 crores but this includes only 7 crores on account of Development Projects. The estimate of ordinary expenditure therefore now stands at 45 crores or 3½ crores more than was originally anticipated. Compared with the original estimates, there has been an increase of 3 crores under Famine Relief and of a little under 2½ crores under "Miscellaneous" for the relief of riot victims and refugees. These have been offset to some extent by reduction to the extent of about 2 crores in respect of ordinary expenditure under Agriculture, Irrigation and Civil Works. The increase under Famine Relief is due partly to the distribution of doles and clothing by way of gratuitous relief on a more extensive scale than was originally anticipated and partly to the purchase of larger stocks of accessory foodstuff like Ralston, Milk-powder and Dehydrated vegetables for relief purposes. The additional provision under "Miscellaneous" includes 7 lakhs for the

Commission of Enquiry in connection with the Calcutta Disturbances, 51 lakhs for the relief of refugees from Bihar and a crore and 80 lakhs for the relief of other refugees. The decrease under Agriculture amounts to half a crore and is due partly to smaller expenditure on Grow More Food Schemes and partly to large-scale reduction of field staff as a result of the abolition of the Agricultural Development Department. Under Irrigation and Civil Works, the total decrease is 1½ crore and is due, as I have already indicated, to slower progress of works.

In view of the fact that revenue receipts this year are expected to be slightly less than was originally estimated while expenditure is expected to go up by 3½ crores, the revenue deficit of 9 crores 70 lakhs visualised in the Budget now stands enhanced to 13 crores 28 lakhs. We have moved the Government of India for a suitable subvention to enable us to balance our Budget and though we have had, so far, no indication of their views, we earnestly hope that the merit and urgency of our claim will be duly appreciated. Pending the conclusion of a fair and equitable financial settlement between the Centre and the Province we have no other course open to us than to ask for *ad hoc* subventions from year to year.

Let me now proceed to enumerate the more important items of new expenditure for which provision has been included in the Revised.

For the advancement of the education of Muslim students a Special Fund called the Muslim Education Fund has been created with effect from the current year. It is proposed that the annual contribution to this Fund should be a sum of 10 lakhs. As the decision to create this Fund was taken towards the close of the current year and the full amount of 10 lakhs could not be utilised this year, the provision in the Revised amounts to 4¼ lakhs out of which 18,000 has been included in the Medical Budget and the balance in the Education Budget. Provision has been made in the coming year's Budget for the full contribution of 10 lakhs including 36,000 for Medical Education.

A sum of half a lakh has been provided for the opening of hostels for Muslim students in Calcutta and of 29,000 for additional facilities in the Islamia College and the Presidency College for the teaching of a larger number of Muslim students.

A grant of 1 lakh 36 thousand has been provided for the Islamia Hospital which has been doing extraordinarily good work and admitting patients of all communities without any distinction of caste or creed. This sum, coupled with a further grant of 2 lakhs 36 thousand for which provision has been made in the coming year's Budget, will, it is hoped, enable the Institution to effect much-needed improvements and secure an expansion of its present accommodation.

A provision of 1¼ lakh has been made for the payment of honoraria to the house-staff of the Medical College Hospitals, Calcutta, who had hitherto not been in receipt of any allowances except in a very few cases. This used to cause a good deal of hardship and discontent which has now been removed.

Certain additional measures involving a total cost of 8 lakhs in the current year had to be taken with a view to strengthen the police force both in Calcutta and outside. Those relating to the Calcutta Police include re-armament of the force with ·303 rifles, strengthening of the Armed Branch, appointment of 20 additional Sub-Inspectors and the purchase of 10 jeep cars. The schemes relating to the Bengal Police include the appointment of 378 Sub-Inspectors and 70 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, an extension of the Police wireless system and the provision of additional transport.

In the Department of Agriculture, a Brooklyn ice plant released by the Military authorities has been acquired at a cost of 6¾ lakhs. Arrangements

have been made to work this plant on a profit-earning basis. Another new scheme for which provision has been included in the Revised is the supply of 500 cane-crushers and juice-boiling pans to cultivators in the Munhsiganj subdivision at a cost of 1½ lakh.

An additional expenditure of 4 lakhs has been included in the Public Health Budget for the employment of 500 Health Assistants and the continued retention of the emergency sanitary staff for combating apprehended outbreaks of epidemic diseases among the devitalised population.

One small item which calls for individual mention is the deputation overseas of an officer of the Finance Department to undertake intensive studies of the Budgetary systems and principles of taxation in the United Kingdom, America, Canada and Australia. This officer's studies in America will also extend to the financial and administrative machinery of the Tennessee Valley Authority and in Australia he will acquaint himself with the working of the Federal Grants Commission as well as with the administration of the Sales Tax as it obtains in that country. The knowledge and experience gained in the course of this deputation will, it is hoped, prove to be of great value to the Province both in the establishment of a well-balanced and efficient Tax structure and in the drawing up of an equitable financial settlement between the Centre and the Province. The cost as at present estimated is eight thousand rupees.

The House will recall that the current year's Budget included a provision of 1½ crore on account of the estimated loss on the Boat Construction Programme. It was assumed that all the boats in the hands of Government would be sold off in six months' time and that the accounts would be finally adjusted before the close of the year. Unfortunately, the programme of sale could not so far be implemented except to a very limited extent as there is very little demand for these boats. It was accordingly proposed that the bulk of the disposal and consequent adjustment of loss should be carried forward into the coming year and the Budget for 1947-48 has been drawn up on this basis. The matter has, however, been reconsidered since and as the guarding and maintenance of these boats involve a good deal of expenditure which in effect is merely throwing away good money after bad, it has been decided to dispose of the boats immediately at the best available price and close the accounts before the 31st March, 1947. This will lead to a saving of about 31 lakhs in staff and contingencies in the coming year. The House will also be interested to know that a Sub-Committee of the Cabinet is looking carefully into the question of possible reduction in staff without detriment to efficiency in the Department of Civil Supplies. Up till now the savings effected by this Sub-Committee amount to 10 lakhs and further scrutiny is in progress.

I now pass on to the details of the Development Programme. The total provision included in the current year's Budget for Development Projects amounted to 12 crores 10 lakhs, out of which 10 crores 45 lakhs representing the provision for non-productive schemes financed by outright grants from the Centre was taken under the Revenue Account and the balance of 1 crore 65 lakhs representing the outlay on productive schemes financed by loans was provided under the Capital Account. The expenditure likely to be incurred on Development Projects during the current year is now estimated at 8 crores 29 lakhs of which 6 crores 96 lakhs falls under the Revenue Account and the balance of 1 crore 33 lakhs falls under the Capital Account. The decrease of 3½ crores under the Revenue Account is made up of a saving of 14 lakhs under Irrigation, 9 lakhs under Education, 14 lakhs under Agriculture, 27 lakhs under Industries, 2 crores 58 lakhs under Civil Works and 27 lakhs under Miscellaneous. The decrease under Irrigation is due to the postponement of the scheme for re-excavation and improvement of

derelict irrigation tanks. Under Education, the decrease is due to abandonment of the scheme for encouragement of post-graduate research in Calcutta by expanding the University College of Science. The decrease under Agriculture and Industries is attributable to the fact that a number of schemes under these two heads could not be fully implemented within the current year owing partly to technical difficulties and partly to disturbed conditions during a part of the year. The largest decrease as already indicated is under Civil Works. Out of a total saving of 2½ crores, 84 lakhs is due to slower progress of construction of provincial highways, major district roads, etc., and the balance is spread over the building programmes of the various departments. The decrease under the Road Programme is due, in a large measure, to the time taken for the completion of Land Acquisition proceedings and to the decision not to acquire crop-bearing land until such crop had been harvested. As for smaller expenditure on the Building Programme, it was found that this programme constituted a load far in excess of what the Provincial Works and Buildings Department could possibly undertake with the staff and resources at its disposal. Arrangements have been made for reducing the load on the Works and Buildings Department by increasing the volume of work to be done departmentally, by making over some works to local bodies and by getting some of the more important jobs carried out through consultants. Even with these alternative arrangements, shortage in building materials coupled with the facts that the burning of bricks could not be arranged before the cold weather of 1946-47 and that a good deal of time is required for the selection of sites and acquisition of land have made it impossible to make any substantial progress in the construction of buildings in the current year.

Under Miscellaneous, the decrease is due to the fact that debits for the purchase of surplus military stores and equipments required in connection with various Development Projects are not expected to be adjusted in full before the close of the current year.

The decrease of 32 lakhs under the Capital Account is made up of a fall of 12 lakhs under the Mor Project, 29 lakhs under Agricultural Improvement and Research and 41 lakhs under Industrial Development. The decrease has been partly counterbalanced by the inclusion of a provision of 50 lakhs for the Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme for which no provision had been made in the original Budget. The object of this new scheme is to acquire the U. S. Army site at Kanchrapara measuring about 14,000 acres with a view to develop it on planned basis for industrial, residential and other purposes. The decrease under the Mor Project as well as under Agricultural Improvement and Research is due to slower progress of work than was originally anticipated. Under Industrial Development, the sum of 15 lakhs provided for participation in the Government of India scheme for the manufacture of fertilizers could not be utilised as the construction of the factory at Sindri has not made sufficient progress. The North Calcutta Rural Electrification Scheme for which a provision of 20 lakhs had been included in the Budget has likewise not made sufficient headway and the revised estimate for this project amounts to 5 lakhs only. Similarly, out of 12½ lakhs provided for Industrial Centres not more than 2¼ lakhs is expected to be utilised in the course of the current year.

Let me now turn to the Budget Estimates for 1947-48.

The total Revenue Estimate for the coming year is 47 crores 68 lakhs out of which 12 crores 42 lakhs represents grants from the Centre on account of Development Projects. The basic revenue therefore amounts to 35 crores 26 lakhs against 31 crores 77 lakhs in the Revised. This improvement of 3½ crores is made up of a number of items the most important being an increase of 1½ crore under Income-tax, 70 lakhs under

stoms, 25 lakhs under Excise and 90 lakhs under Other Taxes. The icipation of enhanced yield from Income-tax is based on the latest imate furnished by the Government of India. The increase under stoms is due to the operation of enhanced rates of export duty on jute full twelve months in the coming year as against a few months only in current year. The improvement under Excise is based on the umption that country spirit shops will function normally throughout the ar. It is proposed that Prohibition should be extended to a new area, ., the district of Bakarganj, in the coming year. The loss of revenue icipated on this account is expected to be counterbalanced by enhanced ence fees on imported foreign liquor which is likely to bring in additional enue amounting to a little over 7 lakhs. The improvement under ther Taxes" is made up of an increase of 50 lakhs under Sales Tax, lakhs under Petrol Tax and 5 lakhs each under Electricity Duty and tertainment Tax. Enhanced receipts under Sales Tax are based on the umption that there will be no impediment to normal trade and business the coming year. The increase under Petrol Tax is due to the operation the enhanced rate for full twelve months in the coming year as against months only in the current year. The improvement under Electricity ty and Entertainment Tax is based on the assumed absence of impediments the Curfew Orders which had the effect of keeping down revenue in the rent year.

On the expenditure side, the total estimate for the coming year is 53 crores lakhs. This includes 12 crores 42 lakhs on account of non-productive velopment Projects financed by outright grants from the Centre. The ic expenditure for 1947-48 therefore stands at 41 crores 46 lakhs against crores 5 lakhs in the Revised. The decrease of about 3½ crores is due to reduction of 3 crores under Famine Relief and 1¼ crore under [iscellaneous" for the relief of riot victims and refugees, set off by an rease of 75 lakhs under Police. In the hope that the general economic l agricultural conditions in the coming year will show a decided provement over those in the current year, the provision for Famine lief has been reduced from 5 crores 83 lakhs in the Revised to 2 crores lakhs in the Budget for 1947-48. The provision for the relief of riot tims and refugees has likewise been reduced from 2½ crores in the Revised 1¼ crore in the Budget. This amount is made up of 54 lakhs for Bihar ugees and 61 lakhs for other refugees. There is also a provision of 10 lakhs the Calcutta Disturbances Commission of Enquiry. The increase under lice is due mainly to the fact that in the absence of any agreed decision the point no credit has been taken in the coming year for any recovery om the Government of India as contribution towards the expenditure on lice. The amount included on this account in the current year's Revised 1 crore. The increase due to the omission of this amount in the Budget 1947-48 has been partly counterbalanced by the absence of provision for ear dearness allowance included in the Revised.

The net effect of an improvement of 3½ crores in revenue and a decrease of crores in expenditure is that as against a Revenue deficit of 13 crores in current year's Revised the deficit anticipated in the coming year amounts 6 crores only. This improvement in our budgetary prospects will, however, almost completely neutralised by an item of expenditure for which no ovision has been included in the Budget as no final decision has yet been ached but which is nevertheless practically unavoidable. The House will call that in presenting the Budget for the current year in July last, I ated that a comprehensive examination was being undertaken of the scales pay of all classes of Government employees with a view to bring such ales more in line with the altered economic conditions which are likely prevail in the years to come. This examination has been completed and results are to be reviewed by Government in the light of the commendations of the Central Pay Commission. Pending the conclusion

of this review no final figures as to extra costs are available but exploratory investigations indicate that the cost of general revision of pay scales may amount to something like six crores. If this additional expenditure is taken into account and I think the House will agree that this expenditure is essential in the interest of a reasonably contented and efficient public service then our revenue deficit in the coming year will mount up to 12 crores We are hoping for a decided improvement both in quality and in output of the work of Government employees as a result of the liberalisation of their pay and prospects; and the reduction in man-power which should be possible in these circumstances should enable us to meet a substantial portion of the extra cost involved in this measure.

It is no use shutting our eyes to the fact that the financial position of the Province is extremely disquieting. No Exchequer can contemplate with equanimity the idea of having to support a revenue deficit of the order of 12 crores from year to year for an indefinite period of time and ways and means must speedily be devised to put the Provincial Budget on a more stable basis. We have all along been pressing for an equitable financial settlement between the Centre and the Province and we shall continue to do so with all the emphasis at our command. But this does not obviate the necessity of exploiting our own resources to the full. Although I have not proposed any immediate measures of taxation, the matter is engaging my earnest and constant attention and I may inform the House that measures are already under consideration for tightening up the administration of the Sales Tax Act with a view to check evasions and other forms of leakage of revenue Considerable extra revenue is likely to be derived from these new measures when they are put into effect. I have also informed the House of the arrangement made by deputation overseas of an officer of the Finance Department to obtain up-to-date information about the structure and incidence of Taxation in the most progressive countries of the world. It is hoped to utilise this information when received to the best advantage of the Province. It is well to remember however that enhanced yield from Taxation depends very much upon improvement in the taxable capacity of the people and the latter in turn depends on the development of our economic wealth and resources, particularly in the fields of Agriculture and Industry Anything which impedes the rapid and orderly development of such resources therefore constitutes a direct threat to the financial stability of the Province

Let me now turn to some of the more important items of new expenditure outside the Development Programme for which provision has been made in the Budget.

Besides the 10 lakhs for the Muslim Education Fund which has already been mentioned, the Education Budget provides for an additional contribution of 5 lakhs to the Scheduled Castes Education Fund, thus bringing the total contribution to the Fund to 10 lakhs in the coming year. A Buddhist Education Fund has been created with a contribution of 16,000. An extra provision of 2 lakhs 18 thousand has been made for Muslim students' hostels in Calcutta and an additional 1 lakh 80 thousand has been provided for grants to old scheme Madrassas and Farkania Madrassas. Additional grants have been provided to the extent of 1 lakh 40 thousand for Secondary Schools for boys, 1 lakh for Secondary Schools for girls, 75 thousand for Arts Colleges for men and 30 thousand for Art Colleges for women. For Anglo-Indian and European Education the additional provisions include 75,000 for a grant to the St. Vincent's School at Asansol for vocational training, 30,000 for furniture grants, 30,000 for grants for equipment and apparatus and 60,000 for building grants to Anglo-Indian and European Schools.

Under the Medical Budget the grant of 2 lakhs 36 thousand to the Islamia Hospital has been already mentioned. The Public Health Budget includes a provision of 1 lakh for Public Health Propaganda in the coming year. I am very glad to inform the House that thanks to the unremitting vigilance

and activity of the Public Health Department, the year 1946 has proved to be the best year within a couple of decades from the public health point of view. The total death rate per thousand in this year has been the lowest on record during the period under review being 18·0 against 24·7 in 1926, 24·5 in 1936, 31·8 in 1943 and 28·6 in 1945. The rate of deaths from malaria has come down to 5·5 from an average of 8·5. Similarly, the mortality from cholera and small-pox has been reduced to ·5 and ·1 per thousand respectively in 1946 from an average of 1·5 and ·5 respectively. There is no doubt that very great advance can be achieved in the improvement of public health by the dissemination of requisite knowledge and instructions among the masses and the provision for Public Health Propaganda in the coming year is intended to carry out this objective.

The Veterinary Budget includes a provision of 15,000 for additional stipends for the students of the Bengal Veterinary College.

Under Miscellaneous Departments mention may be made of a provision of 78,000 for additional jute grading parties under the Special Officer, Jute Prices, and of 40,000 for expansion of the Provincial Statistical Bureau.

The total provision for Development Projects in the coming year amounts to 15 crores 84 lakhs out of which 3 crores 42 lakhs is in respect of productive schemes financed by loan and 12 crores 42 lakhs is in respect of non-productive schemes financed by outright grants from the Centre. Appendix II to the printed copy of this statement shows the distribution of these provisions among the various major heads of expenditure and sets forth the schemes for which provision has been made. Many of these schemes are continuations of those undertaken in the current year and as details relating to them were fully explained in my last Budget statement I do not propose to tax the patience of the House by going over them again. I shall confine myself to a brief enumeration of the more important of the new schemes for which provision has been made in the Budget for 1947-48.

Salt.

There is a provision of 1 lakh 24 thousand for assisting the development of the Salt industry in the Province by the creation of a Salt Development Department and the constitution of a Salt Advisory Committee.

Irrigation.

Under Irrigation a sum of 4 lakhs 24 thousand has been provided for the development of the River Research Institute. As large scale Irrigation projects executed without proper model examination run the risk of turning out unsuccessful, it is proposed to expand the River Research Institute suitably for this purpose by providing it with adequate staff, equipment and apparatus.

A sum of 3 lakhs has been provided for the collection of data with a view to the preparation of a Master Plan for the improvement of the drainage and sanitation of Calcutta and its surrounding areas. There is also a provision of 3 lakhs for the procurement of launches, steamers, etc., for facilitating waterways scheme.

Education.

Under "Education" the provision for increasing the salaries of Primary School teachers has been enhanced from 35½ lakhs in the current year to 54 lakhs in 1947-48 with a view to extend the scope of the concession to untrained non-matriculate staff. There is also a provision of 10 lakhs for the establishment of schools for the training of primary school teachers. It

is proposed to establish 60 such schools with the ultimate object of producing 6,000 trained teachers annually for the new primary schools which will gradually cover the whole Province. The expenditure during the next year will be for the construction of buildings and has therefore been provided under "Civil Works".

A provision of 10 lakhs has been made for the establishment of a new College of Engineering at Dacca with a further provision of 3½ lakhs under "Civil Works" for requisite buildings. There is also a provision of 10 lakhs under "Civil Works" and 2 lakhs under "Education" for the development of the Ahsanulla School of Engineering at Dacca.

Another new item which calls for individual mention is the development and extension of the Islamia College, Calcutta. This Institution cannot at present accommodate more than 500 students and there is moreover no provision for the B.Sc. course in it. It is proposed to move it to a new site in the outskirts of the city, to acquire 2,000 acres of land for the purpose and to construct necessary buildings, including hostels for the accommodation of 2,000 students. A provision of 4 lakhs has been made under "Civil Works" to cover the cost of acquisition of land required for this project.

Another item in the Education Budget is a provision of 4 lakhs for equipment grants to private Colleges which are at present very poorly equipped.

MEDICAL.

A provision of 16 lakhs has been included in the Medical Budget with a view to ensure that deserving private hospitals are given suitable grants for expansion and improvement by the construction of additional buildings, increase in the number of beds, improvement of equipment, installation of X-ray and Electrocardiograph machines, etc.

AGRICULTURE.

Under "Agriculture" a provision of 3 lakhs has been made for the salvage of some 500 dry cows and buffaloes per annum from Calcutta with a further 4 lakhs under "Civil Works" for establishment of a farm at Chuadanga where the animals will be maintained until they freshen when they will be sold back to milkmen in Calcutta. The object of the scheme is to prevent slaughter of animals still in their prime. Another new item is a provision of 2 lakhs for conducting a systematic survey of soils in different parts of the Province for the purpose of obtaining a soil map which is essentially necessary for land utilisation, crop-planning, etc. The balance of the provisions under "Agriculture" is required for continuance of existing schemes of which the most important is the establishment of a Central Live Stock Research-*cum*-Breeding Station at Haringhata.

INDUSTRIES.

New items under "Industries" include a provision of 1½ lakhs for the reorganisation of the Bengal Industrial Research Board with a view to increase the scope of researches under the auspices of the Board. There is also a provision of 1 lakh for the establishment of a Technological Station for experiments in fish processing and utilisation of fish wastes.

CIVIL WORKS.

Under "Civil Works" the provision for the Road programme has been enhanced from a nominal sum of 8 lakhs in the current year's Revised to 1 crore 32 lakhs in the coming year. It is hoped that the special difficulties encountered in the current year will not stand in the way of the execution

f the programme in the coming year. The remainder of the provision under ivil Works is in respect of land and buildings required by other epartments for their respective Development Projects. The distribution mong the more important Departments is as follows:—

Medical	...	1 crore 18 lakhs
Agriculture	...	75 lakhs
Education	...	30 lakhs
General Administration	...	20 lakhs
Industries	...	11 lakhs
Police	...	10 lakhs

(At this stage the House was adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(*After adjournment.*)

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying nder "Land Revenue" there is a scheme of far-reaching importance elating to the simplification of the existing Land Revenue system of the rovince on the lines of the recommendation of the Land Revenue Commission. his scheme aims at the liquidation of the Permanent Settlement and the eplacement of the existing zemindary system by an arrangement under hich Government will be brought into direct relationship with the actual ultivators by the acquisition of all intervening interests in agricultural ands. The total cost of the scheme is estimated at close upon 82 crores, he bulk of the expenditure being for the payment of compensation to the andlords. So far as the next year's Budget is concerned, a provision of 7 lakhs has been made for the inception of Revisional Settlement Operations n certain districts as a necessary preliminary to acquisition.

Miscellaneous.

Under "Miscellaneous" the provision for the rehousing of *bustee* wellers has been enhanced to 35 lakhs against the current year's provision f 15 lakhs. Considerable progress has been made towards the execution of his important project. The requisite sites have been acquired, maps and lans have been drawn up and the Calcutta Improvement Trust has been sked to take up construction without loss of time. A Housing Board is lso being set up for the administration of the scheme for providing ubsidised housing accommodation for the poorest classes.

There is also a new provision of 1 lakh for the establishment of an mprovement Trust at Chittagong for the improvement of the civic menities of the town including drainage, sanitation and general layout.

An important scheme for which no provision has been included in the Budget as the details have not yet been fully worked out is the creation of Sports Stadium in Calcutta with accommodation for about 75,000 persons. An Advisory Committee consisting of the representatives of important porting associations in the city has been set up for the purpose of advising Government as to the layout and other arrangements connected with the roject. It will be a productive enterprise and will as such be financed by oan.

Capital Account.

In the Capital Account provision has been made on an enhanced scale or the continuance of all the schemes undertaken in the current year.

In regard to the Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme a provision of 0 lakhs has been made in addition to an equivalent provision in the current ear's Revised.

I have now placed before the House a brief outline of the more important new items included in the Development Programme for the coming year. Fuller details will be furnished by my honourable colleagues while moving their respective demands for grants. I propose, however, to acquaint the House with the financial background of the entire Five-Year Plan which is now in almost final shape. The total commitment involved in the implementation of the Plan as now drawn up for the different departments amounts to 153 crores and the recurring liability from the sixth year onwards amounts to six crores per annum. Fifty-three crores out of the estimated outlay of 153 crores represents the cost of productive schemes to be financed by loans. The balance of 100 crores constitutes the commitment in respect of non-self-financing projects. Out of this, 69 crores is expected to be covered by grants from the Central Post-War Reconstruction Fund, leaving 31 crores to be met from the resources of the Province. It is our hope that as a result, primarily, of the execution of the Development Programme, the economic wealth of the Province will increase to an extent sufficient to provide the requisite amount from our own resources.

The Budget for the coming year does not include the cost of a number of schemes which though intended to be put into operation in 1947-48 have not yet been worked out in sufficient detail to justify their inclusion in the Budget. I have already referred to one such scheme, namely the erection of a Sports Stadium in Calcutta. Among other schemes, the most important is the one relating to the introduction of free and compulsory primary education in six selected districts, constituting roughly one-fourth of the total area of the Province, at an estimated cost of about 3 crores in five years and an ultimate recurring liability of 80 lakhs per annum. The measure will be gradually extended to other districts as more funds become available. A third scheme in this category relates to the development of the Damodar Valley Area by means of flood control, irrigation and generation of electrical power. The Government of India and the Government of Bihar will also participate in the enterprise and preliminary action is being taken in consultation with them to set up a suitable administrative authority for the execution of the project as early as possible.

FINANCIAL RESULTS.

Let me now recapitulate briefly the financial results of the working of the year according to the estimates placed before the House. The revenue deficit of 13 crores in the current year not only swallows up the opening balance of 7½ crores but calls for an extra 5½ crores to balance the Budget and a further 2½ crores as the opening balance for the coming year. The deficit for the coming year has for the present been estimated at 6 crores. The total uncovered gap between revenue and expenditure in these two years therefore, stands at 14 crores. For the purpose of our estimates this amount has been shown as a short-term debt but, as I have said, we are hoping for an adequate measure of financial assistance from the Centre to relieve us of the dead weight of such unproductive borrowing.

WHY BENGAL IS DEFICIT.

The Bengal Budget for 1947-48, as I said, is the 9th deficit budget in the years following the Neimeyer Award which forms the basis of financial adjustments between the Centre and the provinces.

While this succession of deficit budgets is attributable generally to principles of financial allocation between the Centre and the Province, the present deficit is to a great extent due to the role which Bengal was called upon to play as an important military base during World War II. As a time when other provinces were booming with war profits and war contracts

—Bengal, being a major base for operations in the East, was bearing the full brunt of inflationary forces and piling up enormous deficits from year to year. Enemy bombing and widespread panic produced by this bombing dislocated business and industry. Requisition of properties disrupted normal trade activities. Construction of aerodromes and air-strips and accommodation for the army led to wholesale eviction in many areas. Flood and famine at the peak of the war not only hampered normal development but resulted in heavily increased expenditure on relief and rehabilitation measures. Bengal has inherited the war-time legacy of damaged roads and shattered bridges which have now to be repaired for public use.

Bengal's chronic financial stringency dates back to the iniquitous and unfair financial allocations under the Meston Award, in pre-Autonomy years and under the Neimeyer Award in force since 1937-38. Another factor is the Permanent Settlement which has denied Bengal very considerable amount in the shape of land Revenue.

Sir Otto Neimeyer approached the problem on the assumption that "at the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy each of the provinces should be so equipped as to enjoy a reasonable prospect of maintaining financial equilibrium and in particular the chronic deficit into which some of them had fallen should be brought to an end". The financial position of the provinces as it existed at that time was examined and it was on the basis of these investigations that the amount of special assistance necessary in each case was determined.

Immediate financial assistance was also proposed from the beginning of Provincial Autonomy to certain provinces in the form of cash subventions, cancellation of debts incurred before April, 1936, and distribution of a larger share of the Jute Tax to jute-growing provinces. The recommendations also provided for distribution, by the Centre, of income-tax so as to relinquish 50 per cent. of the distributable total in the intermediate 5 years.

From Bengal's point of view the Neimeyer Award made no attempt whatever to rectify the accumulated deficiencies of pre-Autonomy years. She was given 75 lakhs by way of immediate assistance and this sum helped her to temporarily balance her budget. But no allowance was made for the disadvantages under which she was labouring in comparison with other provinces. Moreover there was no assessment of the real needs of the different provinces in terms of common standards of administration or development. Thus, for instance, although Bengal's population at that time was three times that of Bombay, the Award assigned the same percentage of income-tax receipts (i.e., 20 per cent. of the divisible pool) to both the provinces. Another grievance of Bengal is that the Jute Export Duty has not been recognised as a Provincial source of revenue. In the pre-Autonomy days Bengal was receiving 50 per cent. of the net proceeds of the Export Duty on jute and the Award added another 12½ per cent. Jute being her monopoly produce, Bengal has always claimed that the whole of the Export Duty on this commodity should be assigned to her.

Generally speaking the paramount considerations before the author of the Award were the financial stability and solvency of the Centre and the credit of India as a whole. The year 1936 in which the Award was given was a year of depression and the Centre was faced with a deficit. At that time the Railway Revenues showed a decline and Sir Otto Neimeyer admitted that the position of Railways was frankly disquieting. Now that these factors have ceased to exist and the danger of Centre's insolvency is remote, the revision of financial settlement as between the Centre and Bengal should no longer be deferred. This Province did not get an equitable share under the Neimeyer Award.

As against the inelastic and obviously burdensome items assigned to the Province, the Centre has all the progressive or elastic and productive sources of revenue to itself, and judged in the context of post-war reconstruction drive all over India, the Award is entirely out of date. It was framed with

the intention of maintaining standards of administration in provinces as those existed in 1936. The deficit with which it concerned itself, was really the deficit existing then. It did not anticipate the various reconstruction measures which popular and responsible ministries would have to undertake for general welfare and uplift.

It is further emphasized, that the provinces have great tasks ahead in every department of nation-building activity—in education, sanitation, agricultural and industrial development, and that there is room for constant increase in the standard of expenditure even in richest provinces. The absence of provisions for large scale reconstruction activities was felt as early as 1937 at a conference of Provincial Finance Ministers. The Conference felt that the most productive sources of revenue were with the Centre and the provinces were left with unproductive sources. The Conference further brought to light the need of funds for productive or developmental purposes in the provinces. Salaries and cognate expenses of superior services being guaranteed by the Constitution, there was no room for cuts in that direction. The inability of the Provincial Governments to finance much-needed projects of economic development or social reform also came to light at this conference.

It is hoped that the Government of India will soon scrap this outmoded financial arrangement and replace it by a more equitable allocation of resources to the Provinces. So long as this essential measure of reform is not undertaken there is no other alternative to *ad hoc* financial assistance from year to year.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: On a point of privilege, Sir. Is not this portion just read out by the Hon'ble Finance Minister going to be circulated to members?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is only for convenience that the speech is circulated to members. If the Hon'ble Finance Minister has got anything more to say he is not debarred from doing that.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: As a matter of convention—and this is also a privilege of the members—the Finance Minister's statement which is an annual statement and is read out by him is circulated to members, so that copies may be made available to members. I suggest, Sir, that this portion may as well be circulated.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, it will be done.

CONCLUSION.

One last observation and I have done. Never before in the history of the Province has there been such a unique opportunity as has now presented itself for the economic uplift of our people by the planned development of our agricultural and industrial resources. An examination of the Budget which I have just placed before the House will, I am sure, clearly show how earnestly we are endeavouring to utilise this opportunity to the best advantage of the Province. The measures included in the Budget are conceived in the best and highest interest of the masses whose amelioration is the primary objective of all parties. Is it too much to expect in these circumstances that they will receive the active support of every shade of public opinion? The House will, I trust, agree with me when I say that this is not a moment for parliamentary obstruction, or a moment for approaching vital problems as a matter of party scores; this is a moment which calls for a united assault upon the obstacles which impede our progress and united endeavour to attain our objective with the minimum loss of time.

APPENDIX I.

Statement I.

Bengal Budget, 1947-48.

(The figures are in thousands of rupees.)

Receipts.	Actuals, 1945-46.	1946-47. Budget.	1946-47. Revised.	Budget, 1947-48.
Opening Balance	3,64,81	7,65,50	7,65,50	2,47,91
Revenue Receipts	45,56,26	42,50,66	38,73,02	47,67,89
Receipts from Debt Heads ..	1,21,81,54	1,18,42,49	1,25,12,85	1,28,03,78
Total ..	1,71,02,61	1,68,58,65	1,71,51,37	1,78,19,58
Expenditure.				
Revenue Expenditure	40,60,47	52,20,69	52,01,49	53,88,03
Capital Expenditure	−7,70,74	2,22,79	−6,73,96	−2,24,91
Expenditure on Debt Heads ..	1,30,47,38	1,11,48,75	1,23,75,93	1,24,82,16
Closing Balance	7,65,50	2,66,42	2,47,91	1,74,30
Total ..	1,71,02,61	1,68,58,65	1,71,51,37	1,78,19,58
Net Result.				
Surplus+ Deficit−				
(*a*) On Revenue Account ..	+4,95,79	−9,70,03	−13,28,47	−6,20,14
(*b*) Outside Revenue Account ..	−95,10	+4,70,95	+8,10,88	+5,46,53
(*c*) Net, excluding Opening Balance	+4,00,69	−4,99,08	−5,17,59	−73,61

Statement II.

	Budget, 1946-47.	Revised, 1946-47.	Budget, 1947-48.
Revenue Receipts	42,50,66	38,73,02	47,67,89
Deduct—Provision for Development Projects ..	10,45,01	6,95,98	12,41,95
Basic Revenue	32,05,65	31,77,04	35,25,94
Revenue Expenditure	52,20,69	52,01,49	53,88,03
Deduct—Provision for Development Projects ..	10,45,01	6,95,98	12,41,95
Basic Expenditure	41,75,68	45,05,51	41,46,08
Basic Revenue Deficit	−9,70,03	−13,28,47	−6,20,14

APPENDIX II.

Development Programme.

Abstract.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

	Budget Estimate, 1946-47.	Revised Estimate, 1946-47.	Budget Estimate, 1947-48.
A—Revenue Account—			
5—Salt	..	..	1,24
7—Land Revenue	4,04	4,44	36,87
10—Forest	21,03	24,78	34,71
18—Irrigation	73,84	60,36	1,10,70
25—General Administration ..	1,17	..	2,08
28—Jails and Convict Settlements ..	..	..	27
29—Police	2,00	13,50	4,00
37—Education—General	54,76	45,77	1,09,22
38—Medical	2,46,32	2,40,04	2,75,35
39—Public Health	76,00	71,38	69,82
40—Agriculture	41,45	27,12	60,62
41—Veterinary	1,01	2,68	2,74
42—Co-operation	4,30	1,80	7,65
43—Industries—Industries ..	31,63	4,84	27,54
43—Industries—Cinchona ..	3,39	33	2,40
47—Miscellaneous Departments ..	1,03	86	1,18
50—Civil Works	3,81,85	1,24,07	4,20,92
57—Miscellaneous	1,01,19	74,01	74,64
Total (Revenue Account) ..	10,45,01	6,95,98	12,41,95
B—Outside Revenue Account—			
68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works	70,00	58,32	1,43,23
71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research	41,70	12,35	45,91
72—Capital outlay on Industrial Development	53,68	12,45	1,03,71
80A—Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme	..	50,00	50,00
Total (Outside Revenue Account) ..	1,65,38	1,33,12	3,42,85
Grand Total ..	12,10,39	8,29,10	15,84,80

Details.

5—Salt.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

	Budget Estimate, 1946-47.	Revised Estimate, 1946-47.	Budget Estimate, 1947-48.
Organisation of a Salt Development Department in Bengal ..	..	..	1,16
Scheme for a Salt Advisory Committee ..	..	..	8
Total	..	..	1,24

7—Land Revenue.

Simplification of the existing Land Revenue system on the basis of the Land Revenue Commission's Report ..	4,04	4,44	36,87

10—Forest.

Improvement of communications, buildings and water-supply in Government Forests	8,22	6,96	10,72
Rehabilitation of existing Government Forests	4,92	6,94	5,31
Afforestation in the district of Nadia ..	3,29	4,90	5,16
Conservation of private forests and afforestation of private waste lands ..	2,15	1,60	2,22
Provision for training of technical and other personnel ..	1,68	54	1,38
Creation of a Soil Conservation Circle ..	53	3,60	9,53
Total	20,79	24,54	34,32

Charges in England.

Creation of a Soil Conservation Circle ..	..	..	15
Provision for training of technical and other personnel	24	24	24
Total	24	24	39
Grand Total	21,03	24,78	34,71

18.—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenue.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

	Budget Estimate, 1946-47.	Revised Estimate, 1946-47.	Budget Estimate, 1947-48.
Re-excavation of derelict irrigation tanks	30,00	19,04	..
Minor provincial irrigation and drainage schemes	20,24	14,38	67,12
Relief and rehabilitation irrigation schemes	10,00	8,84	..
Planning of a comprehensive irrigation and drainage scheme for the whole of Bengal excepting Western Bengal ..	5,00	13,07	23,00
Excavation and re-excavation of silted-up small irrigation and drainage channels	5,00	3,17	5,00
Extension of irrigation facilities by construction of wells, etc	2,08	1,32	5,00
Collection of hydrological data (gauge and discharge observation of principal rivers and silt and salinity observation) in Mymensingh and Eastern Divisions	1,52	34	34
Preparation of a Master Drainage Plan for Calcutta	..	20	3,00
Development of Rivers Research Institute	..	..	4,24
Procurement of launches, etc., for waterways scheme	..	..	3,00
Total ..	73,84	60,36	1,10,70

25—General Administration.

Appointment of additional Circle Officers	1,17	..	1,17
Provision of public address equipment ..	..	..	91
Total ..	1,17	..	2,08

28—Jails and Convict Settlements.

Establishment of a Training Institute for Jail staff	..	..	27

29—Police.

Increase of self-propelled watercraft for police forces in riverine districts ..	2,00	6,00	2,00
Construction of Police buildings ..	..	7,50	2,00
Total ..	2,00	13,50	4,00

37—Education—General.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

	Budget Estimate, 1946-47.	Revised Estimate, 1946-47.	Budget Estimate, 1947-48.
Increasing the salaries of existing primary school teachers ..	20,00	35,50	54,00
Encouragement of Post-graduate research	10,00	..	..
Immediate improvement of the Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur ..	5,00	3,00	6,16
Equipment and machinery for Government Institutions	4,00	..	4,00
Further education and technical training of ex-servicemen	3,50	..	8,36
Scheme for sending students abroad for training in various courses of technology	98	78	25
Grants to Jadavpur College ..	2,40	2,40	40
Training abroad of students selected in 1946-47	78	28	36
Expansion of girls' secondary education to provide more matriculates for primary school training ..	1,50	..	5,20
Strengthening of Headquarters staff for supervision of the new system of education	1,05	..	..
Expansion of training facilities for graduate men and women teachers	67	26	32
Improvement of 50 selected high schools of the province	65	..	..
Deputation of officers of the Education Department in connection with primary school training	46	55	..
Training of the staff of primary training schools	46	..	..
Appointment of Physical Training Instructresses in the Women's Training Schools	8	8	8
Training of nursery school trainers and teachers	5	..	..
Scheme for sending students abroad during 1947-48	..	..	32
New College of Engineering, Dacca ..	..	..	10,38
Development of Ahsanulla School of Engineering, Dacca	..	49	1,91
Training of staff of Primary Training School and of teachers of Nursery School	..	51	6,62
Girls' High Schools in each subdivision ..	..	..	1,28
Equipment for Private Colleges ..	..	..	4,00
Total ..	51,58	43,85	1,03,64

37—Education—General—*concld.*

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

	Budget Estimate, 1946-47.	Revised Estimate, 1946-47.	Budget Estimate, 1947-48.
Charges in England.			
Scheme for sending students abroad for training in various courses of technology	1,68	1,38	2,80
Training abroad of students selected in 1946-47	1,50	54	2,10
Scheme for sending students abroad during 1947-48	..	..	68
Total ..	3,18	1,92	5,58
Grand Total ..	54,76	45,77	1,09,22

38—Medical.

Increase in the number of hospital beds and provision of new beds in rural areas	1,70,00	1,70,00	1,70,00
Rehabilitation and improvement of existing hospitals	25,00	20,00	25,00
Establishment of a temporary Medical College at the Lake area in Calcutta with a temporary 1,000-bedded hospital ..	19,00	18,52	26,00
Establishment of T. B. Hospital at Kanchrapara	10,76	10,76	10,76
Creation of an Ambulance Service ..	7,54	6,60	3,88
Conversion of the Medical School at Dacca into a Medical College and provision of 500 additional beds	6,80	6,85	13,26
Control and prevention of venereal diseases	3,97	3,97	4,00
Improvement of the Indian Mental Hospital at Ranchi	1,83	1,83	2,68
Chindren's Ward in Calcutta Medical College	64	40	96
Improvement of nursing system and establishment of a Bengal Nursing Service ..	38	29	1,29
Study leave ex-India to the officers of the Bengal Medical Service (Upper) ..	30	10	10
Improvement of Pharmacy and Pharmacy training	10	..	40
Conversion of the Campbell Medical School, Calcutta, into a Medical College and provision of 100 additional beds ..	..	..	60
Grant to private Medical Institutions for expansion, rehabilitation and improvement	..	..	16,00
Total ..	2,46,32	2,39,32	2,74,93
Charges in England.			
Study leave ex-India to the officers of the Bengal Medical Service (Upper) ..	..	72	42
Grand Total ..	2,46,32	2,40,04	2,75,35

39—Public Health.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

	Budget Estimate, 1946-47.	Revised Estimate, 1946-47.	Budget Estimate, 1947-48.
Rural water-supply scheme	50,00	45,00	45,00
Water-supply and drainage in municipal areas	20,00	23,00	15,00
Malaria control (including intensive malaria control in the fringe of Salt Water Lake area)	3,00	..	..
Maternity and Child Welfare ..	1,50	1,50	2,00
Creation of a Public Health Nutrition Organisation	1,00	..	1,00
Establishment of two Leper Colonies—			
(*a*) At Bankura	..	..	43
(*b*) At Peardhoba	50	88	2,75
Malaria control in Bengal	..	..	96
Malaria control in the fringe area of the Salt Lake	..	1,00	2,68
Total ..	76,00	71,38	69,82

40—Agriculture.

Establishment of a Central Livestock Research-*cum*-Breeding station ..	13,55	15,65	15,74
Improvement of livestock industry ..	5,70	3,25	10,00
Expansion of the Bengal Agricultural Institute, Dacca	3,73	..	3,73
Goat multiplication scheme	3,02	2,60	46
Expansion of Agricultural Research ..	3,00	63	..
Organisation of the Horticultural Section for developing the fruit and fruit products industry	2,02	1,28	5,22
Establishment of a Livestock Breeding Farm at Kalimpong	1,63	50	1,74
Training of lower technical personnel ..	1,63	24	1,75
Expansion of the Department of Agricultural Marketing	1,56	1,04	3,00
Sugarcane research	1,41	38	1,14
Expansion of the District Agricultural staff for intensified work in demonstration, etc.	1,40	89	6,00
Establishment of Agricultural Centres for training of ex-soldiers	80	..	2,00
Establishment of a five-acre potato breeding station	64	..	50
Development of publicity and propaganda organisation of the Agriculture Department	39	24	71
Expansion of the commodity grading centres	38	10	35

40—Agriculture—*concld.*

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

	Budget Estimate, 1946-47.	Revised Estimate, 1946-47.	Budget Estimate, 1947-48.
Purchase of tents for touring officers ..	34	22	7
National Park	10	..	25
Provision of Plant Protection staff ..	9	6	45
Encouragement of the cultivation of fodder crops	6	4	2,81
Soil survey of Bengal	..	..	2,00
Salvage of dry cows from Calcutta ..	..	..	2,70
Total ..	41,45	27,12	60,62

41—Veterinary.

Provision of better facilities for veterinary aid in Calcutta and its suburbs ..	64	35	47
Expansion and reorganisation of the Bengal Veterinary College and of Veterinary Vaccine Section	37	2,33	27
Reorganisation of the Veterinary service in Bengal	..	..	2,00
Total ..	1,01	2,68	2,74

42—Co-operation.

Reorganisation of the staff of the Co-operative Department	4,00	1,50	7,65
Development of Co-operative Irrigation Societies	30	30	..
Total ..	4,30	1,80	7,65

43—Industries—Industries.

Expansion of the Department of Fisheries in Bengal	8,20	75	6,00
Reorganisation of the Department of Sericulture.			
Reorganisation of existing seven nurseries and creation of nine new nurseries for research in mulberry cultivation, etc.	7,90	..	3,50
Reorganisation of the Peddie Reeling Institute, Malda.			
Sericultural Development			
Reorganisation of the Bengal Textile Institute, Serampore	4,34	..	2,50
Reorganisation of the Ceramic Institute, Calcutta	2,91	55	2,70
Expansion and reorganisation of the Bengal Tanning Institute	2,46	..	3,00

43—Industries—Industries.

	Budget Estimate, 1946-47.	Revised Estimate, 1946-47.	Budget Estimate, 1947-48.
Appointment of Power Engineers and staff for development of electricity ..	1,86	1,50	1,83
Sending abroad selected officials of the Department to receive training in specific subjects	..	10	10
Reorganisation of the Department of Industries, Bengal	87	37	91
Establishment of a Bengal Sericultural Training Institute	84	..	80
Development of tank fisheries in Bengal	80	1,09	83
Fish Culture and Malaria	32	..	32
Development of fisheries in the Sunderbans Abad areas	13	9	49
Establishment of a Technological Station for experiments in fish-processing, etc.	..	..	1,00
Location of Industries Office ..	..	9	46
Reorganisation of the Government silk conditioning House	..	..	74
Reorganisation of the Bengal Industrial Research Board	..	..	1,50
Total ..	30,63	4,54	26,68
Charges in England.			
Sending abroad selected officials of the Department to receive training in specific subjects	1,00	30	86
Grand Total ..	31,63	4,84	27,54

43—Industries—Cinchona.

Increased production of quinine ..	3,39	33	2,40

47—Miscellaneous Departments.

Establishment of a conciliation machinery for settling industrial disputes. Development of Trade Unions on sound lines .. .. .. Opening of new Labour Welfare Centres and improvement of existing ones ..	83	83	88
Establishment of a Labour Advisory Board	12	3	20
Publication of a Labour Journal ..	8	..	10
Total ..	1,03	86	1,18

50—Civil Works.

Original Works—Buildings.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

	Budget Estimate, 1946-47.	Revised Estimate, 1946-47.	Budget Estimate, 1947-48.
General Administration.			
Reconstruction of District and Subdivisional offices	5,00	2,50	5,12
Construction of buildings for Circle offices and residences of Circle officers and their staff	..	25	15,14
Jails.			
Improvement of Jails	6,00	3,76	5,00
Establishment of a Training Institute for Jail staff	..	..	10
Police.			
Construction of Police buildings ..	12,00	4,50	10,00
Education.			
Training of the staff of Primary Training Schools and of teachers of Nursery School	15,00	1,50	1,50
Expansion of girls' secondary education to provide more matriculates for Primary school training	2,50	..	..
Improvement of 50 selected High Schools	1,00	..	..
Buildings for the Dacca Intermediate College	50	..	..
New College of Engineering, Dacca ..	..	..	3,50
Development of Ahsanulla School of Engineering, Dacca	..	..	10,00
Schools for the training of primary school teachers	..	..	10,00
Expansion of training facilities for graduate men and women teachers ..	..	..	1,00
Development of Islamia College ..	..	..	4,00
Immediate improvement of Islamia College	..	75	..

50—Civil Works—*contd.*

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

	Budget Estimate, 1946-47.	Revised Estimate, 1946-47.	Budget Estimate, 1947-48.
Medical.			
Increase in the number of hospital beds and provision of new beds in rural areas	40,00	33,97	40,00
Rehabilitation and improvement of existing hospitals	20,00	6,79	10,00
Conversion of the Medical School at Dacca into a Medical College and provision of 500 additional beds	20,00	2,55	5,00
Conversion of the Campbell Medical School, Calcutta, into a Medical College and provision of 100 additional beds ..	20,00	42	20,00
Provision of an infectious diseases hospital in Calcutta	15,00	8,13	15,00
Establishment of T. B. hospitals—			
(*a*) At Amulia	10,00	17	10,40
(*b*) At Kanchrapara ..	3,00	2,12	1,00
Improvement of nursing system and establishment of a Bengal Nursing Service	3,00	9	4,50
Establishment of a temporary Medical College in the Lake area in Calcutta with a temporary 1,000 bedded hospital	2,00	1,70	1,00
Creation of an Ambulance Service ..	1,00	34	1,20
Improvement of Pharmacy and Pharmacy Training	50	..	4,50
Increase in the number of rural dispensaries	..	..	5,00
Public Health.			
Establishment of Leper Colonies—			
(*a*) At Peardhoba	3,60	..	5,70
(*b*) At Bankura	2,00	1,60	1,65
Agriculture.			
Establishment of a Central Livestock Research-*cum*-Breeding station ..	45,00	21,00	20,00
Provision of seed stores at each thana Headquarters	11,00	2,25	20,00
Expansion of Bengal Agricultural Institute, Dacca	7,27	..	7,27
Sugarcane research	6,83	2,43	3,43
Training of lower technical personnel ..	6,31	23	4,15
Establishment of a Livestock Breeding Farm at Kalimpong	6,25	1,50	3,44
Establishment of Agricultural Centres for training of ex-soldiers	2,70	46	4,00
Organisation of the Horticultural Section for developing the fruit and fruit products industry	2,10	36	3,75
Establishment of four livestock breeding farms for breeding stud-bulls, etc. ..	..	16,00	4,50
Salvage of dry cows from Calcutta ..	..	..	4,12

50—Civil Works—*concld.*

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

	Budget Estimate, 1946-47.	Revised Estimate, 1946-47.	Budget Estimate, 1947-48.
Veterinary.			
Expansion and reorganisation of the Bengal Veterinary College and of Veterinary Vaccine Section	5,00	..	2,00
Reorganisation of the Veterinary Services in Bengal	..	..	.. 1,70
Industries.			
Reorganisation of the Department of Sericulture			
Reorganisation of existing seven nurseries and creation of nine new nurseries for research in mulberry cultivation, etc.	5,00	..	5,00
Reorganisation of the Peddie Reeling Institute, Malda			
Sericultural Development			
Expansion and reorganisation of the Bengal Tanning Institute	2,73	..	1,00
Reorganisation of the Bengal Textile Institute, Serampore	1,86	10	1,90
Reorganisation of the Ceramic Institute, Calcutta	85	20	2,60
Establishment of a Bengal Sericultural Training Institute ..	75	..	75
Miscellaneous.			
Peace-time Fire Service	4,00	40	9,00
Original Works—Communications.			
Construction and improvement of Provincial Highways, Major District Roads, etc.	92,10	8,00	1,32,00
Total ..	3,81,85	1,24,07	4,20,92
57—Miscellaneous.			
Purchase of surplus military stores ..	50,00	30,00	20,00
Peace-time fire service	36,19	29,01	18,64
Rehousing of bustee-dwellers ..	15,00	15,00	35,00
Establishment of an Improvement Trust at Chittagong	..	..	1,00
Total	1,01,19	74,01	74,64
60—Capital Account of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works outside the Revenue Account,			
62—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works.			
Mor Reservoir Project	70,00	58,32	1,43,23

FF—Civil Administration—Capital Accounts outside the Revenue Account,

71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

	Budget Estimate, 1946-47.	Revised Estimate, 1946-47.	Budget Estimate, 1947-48.
Establishment of 28 Seed Multiplication Farms	35,33	8,55	43,00
Establishment of a Jute Seed Multiplication Farm	6,04	3,50	2,51
Creation of a Works and Buildings Section under the Directorate of Agriculture ..	33	30	40
Total	41,70	12,35	45,91

72—Capital outlay on Industrial Development.

North Calcutta Rural Electrification Scheme	20,23	5,20	43,80
Participation in the Government of India Scheme for manufacture of fertilisers ..	15,00	..	15,00
Industrial Centres	12,63	2,25	40,50
Exploitation of coastal and estuarine fisheries and provision of fishing fleet ..	5,82	5,00	4,41
Total ..	53,68	12,45	1,03,71

HH.—Capital Account of Civil Works and Miscellaneous Public Improvements outside the Revenue Account,

80A—Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme.

Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme	..	50,00	50,00

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-5 p.m. till 4-30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 18th February, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 18th February, 1947, at 4-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 210 members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Improvement of cottage and salt industries in Chittagong district.

***66. Mr. ALI AHMED CHOWDHURY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Industries Department be pleased to state what steps the Government contemplates taking for the improvement of cottage industry and salt industry in Chittagong district?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that cotton-ginning by hand machine and net-making by hand is a popular cottage industry there?

(*c*) Is it a fact that popular opinion demands improved type of hand-ginning machine for the district?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the Government propose to introduce the improved machine as demanded by the public?

(*e*) Is there any pending project for introducing industrial institutions in the rural areas of the district? If so, when?

Minister-in-charge of the INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed): (*a*) As regards cottage industries, it is in contemplation to bring about an all-round improvement in these by—

(*i*) reorganising the working of the demonstration parties operating in the district with the introduction of new methods of production and expansion of the scope of training imparted by them;

(*ii*) reorganising the working of the aided schools in the district with the opening of a Commercial Section so as to enable the trainees to get an opportunity of working under commercial conditions;

(*iii*) designing and introducing labour saving devices amongst the cottage workers as also alternative types of raw materials so as to bring down the cost of production;

(*iv*) reorganising the working of the Moving Exhibition with a view to making it a more useful instrument of service to the rural people; and

(*v*) rendering technical advice and guidance to the workers in all matters of their difficulties.

As regards the salt industry, several schemes, to wit (1) creation of a Salt Advisory Committee, (2) establishment of a Government Salt Factory and (3) establishment of a Salt Institute have been devised to ensure an ordered development of the industry on factory as well as cottage basis. It is also in contemplation to reorganise the existing salt warehouses in the Chittagong district with a view to facilitating collection of indigenous salt.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) There has been some demand for an improved type of hand-ginning machine in the district.

(*d*) Steps towards designing and introducing the machine will be taken up as soon as the Industries Directorate is provided with proper staff as envisaged in the scheme for the reorganisation of the Directorate now under consideration of Government.

(*e*) As stated above, a number of schemes are being worked out to bring about an all-round economic improvement of the rural workers of the district. It is also in contemplation to start a Leather Trade School in the district.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that for a long time the All-India Spinners' Association and several other similar organisations are working in the district of Chittagong with a view to organise hand spinning and hand weaving within that district?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: My friend has given me the information. Let me take it as such.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire into the matter and try to improve the condition of these organisations?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Government will consider that.

Mr. FAZLUL QUADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is prepared to abolish the tax on salt as a production of cottage industries charged at the rate of three annas?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I do not know, but certainly Government will look into the matter and will try to remove the grievances, if any.

Mr. FAZLUL QUADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is prepared to supply frying pans and other necessary articles at cheap price to the manufacturers?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Government will give every possible aid for these things.

Mr. FAZLUL QUADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will make arrangement for purchase of all salt brought to the warehouse on cash payment at a fixed price?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: That will come under the Warehouse scheme.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether, since the tabling of this question, anything has been done to bring about all-round improvements in the cottage industries?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: The answer is quite clear. I have nothing further to add.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAY: With reference to answer (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what improvement has been effected in the matter of distribution of yarn to the cottage industry weavers?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: The yarn does not come within the purview of the Industries Department, but all the same the honourable member perhaps knows the difficulties the country is passing through so far as the supply of yarn is concerned. This much I can say that whenever the position improves, the yarn will be supplied.

Mr. ALI AHMED CHOWDHURY: With reference to answer (*a*)(*i*) to (*v*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us a definite idea as to when he is going to give effect to all these things?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I am sorry I cannot give a definite idea, but it will be put into effect as soon as possible.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of supplying an improved type of hand-ginning machine?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Government will consider the matter.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us an idea as to the schemes which have already been worked out for bringing about an all-round economic improvement of the rural areas?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a very wide question.

Mr. ALI AHMED CHOWDHURY: With reference to answer (*d*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when proper staff will be available for the introduction of the improved type of machine?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: As will be found from the answer, we are having a new Directorate; and the moment the Directorate is complete, the supply of this thing will be arranged for.

Mr. AHMED KABIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of Government to supply any improved type of hand-ginning maching in the district?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: It will be found from the answer that Government have noted that there is a demand for an improved type of hand-ginning machine in the district.

Mr. FAZLUL QUADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any such machine has been given a trial in Chittagong?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I am sorry, I cannot answer offhand.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if during the period of his administration the weavers in Chittagong are getting less yarn for weaving?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I cannot say.

Mrs. NELLIE SEN GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that such people of Chittagong like the Arakanese and the Buddhists who live entirely by cottage industries and weaving get only 3½ oz. instead of 10 oz. of yarn a week which enable them to work for only ten days instead of thirty days in a month?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I am sorry, I am not aware of that.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the people of Chittagong are getting only about 5/8th pounds of yarn a month?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I cannot say offhand.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: With reference to answer (*d*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to describe in brief the scheme of reorganisation of the Directorate that is under consideration of Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Directors, Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors will be appointed on specific duties and then they will go in for other works.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the questions put by Mrs. Nellie Sen Gupta and Mr. Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to enquire into the matter and grant relief to the weavers who are suffering?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: That will be considered.

Mr. MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: In view of the answer just given that it is not the concern of the Industries Department to supply yarn to the cottage industries——

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Yarn comes under the purview of the Civil Supplies Department.

Mr. MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of transferring the supply of raw materials to the Industries Department, the technical department concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: That will be considered.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: With reference to answer (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the supplies contemplated for the improvement of cottage industries are meant for the Chittagong district or for any other district?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: The question was meant for the Chittagong district and the reply is there.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: With reference to answer (*c*) where it is stated that a number of schemes are being worked out to bring about an all-round economic improvement, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the schemes are expected to come into being and who are working out these schemes?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: In course of a couple of months.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Who are working out these schemes?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: The Industries Department.

Mr. FAZLUL QADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long Government will take for starting the Leather Trade School in Chittagong?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Government wanted to start the Leather Trade School long before but owing to the exigencies of the war, as the honourable member knows, it was held up. It will be taken up as soon as possible.

Appointment and discharge of Sj. Rabindra Mohan Datta.

*67. **Mr. ARUN CHANDRA SINCHA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Industries Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) if Sj. Rabindra Mohan Datta was an officer of the Government of Bengal in the Industries Department from April, 1937 to January, 1944;

(*b*) if during his term of office he was confirmed to his post in 1941;

(*c*) if it is a fact that the said confirmation order of the Hon'ble Minister was not communicated to him in 1941;

(*d*) if it is also a fact that he was suddenly discharged from his office without any proper notice on 2nd February, 1944;

(*e*) if the reply to the above is in the affirmative, what were the grounds for that sudden discharge and whether those grounds were personal ones;

(*f*) if it is true that said Sj. Datta made a memorial to His Excellency the Governor of Bengal on the 2nd April, 1945, alleging the real causes of his dismissal and seeking redress;

(*g*) whether the Governor of Bengal passed orders on his said memorial after enquiry and communicated the order to the Secretary, Department of Commerce, Labour and Industries, within 6th April, 1945; and

(*h*) if the reply to the above is in the affirmative, what was the order passed by His Excellency the Governor of Bengal and what action has been taken on that order?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) and (*f*) Yes.

(*b*) No. As the post he was then holding was a temporary one the question of his confirmation in it did not arise.

(*c*), (*e*) and (*h*) Do not arise.

(*d*) As the post to which he was appointed was sanctioned for a specific period, he was discharged on the expiration of the period of his appointment as a matter of course; and as such the question of his being served with a notice of discharge did not arise.

(*g*) No. As the memorial did not break any new ground it was forwarded by the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor to this Department for disposal.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the said Rabindra Mohan Datta was appointed to a permanent post when he was first appointed in April, 1937, as Botanical Officer to the Sericulture Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: The answer is conclusive. His appointment was a temporary one.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that in May, 1942, he was transferred from a substantive post to a temporary post as Assistant to the Works Supplies Department under the Supply Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I cannot add to what I have already said.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the said memorial the said Rabindra Mohan Datta alleged that he was discharged because he did not agree to an unfair request made by Mr. S. C. Mitter in his private capacity as Director of Industries.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: That is not a fact.

Mr. HEMANTA KUMAR BASU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the temporary post held by Mr. Datta has been abolished or any other person appointed to the post?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: The post was a temporary one and the gentleman has gone away from that post. That's all.

Measures for improvement of soil fertility in Bengal.

***68. Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the average yield of paddy per acre, district by district, in (*i*) North Bengal, (*ii*) East Bengal, (*iii*) Central Bengal, and (*iv*) Western Bengal;

(*b*) the areas of cultivable lands lying uncultivated and fallow, district by district;

(*c*) whether there has been any general deterioration in soil fertility and consequent deterioration in the yield of food crops in the cultivated areas; and

(*d*) what efforts are being made to implement the recommendations of the Famine Commission to improve the soil fertility in Bengal?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Hossain): (*a*) A statement showing the average yield of different varieties of paddy is placed on the Table.

(*b*) A statement showing the areas of cultivable lands but not yet brought under cultivation is placed on the Table. No exact figure regarding current fallows can be given as the acreage of such lands varies according to season from anything like 8 lakhs to 45 lakhs in the whole Province

(*c*) There is no evidence to show that there has been a general deterioration of soil fertility. It is possible that in some areas this may have been the case but no details can be given until a Province-wide soil survey is made.

(*d*) It is the policy of Government to intensify the distribution of manure and fertilisers as these are the principal means by which the fertility of the soil can be increased in the shortest time. The following table will show the quantities of oilcakes sold at controlled rates and chemical and other fertilisers distributed at subsidised rates during 1945-46 and the targets fixed for 1946-47:—

	1945-46.	1946-47.	
Bonemeal ..	27,022 maunds	150,000 maunds	50 per cent. subsidy.
Oilcake ..	300,221 maunds	521,000 maunds	At controlled rate.
Ammonium sulphate	6,185 tons	7,500 tons	50 per cent. subsidy.
Ammonium phosphate	568 tons	3,000 tons	25 per cent. subsidy.
Green manuring—			
Sun-hemp ..	....	10,000 maunds	Free distribution.
Dhaincha ..	....	400 maunds	
Village compost ..	1,222,600 maunds	2,400,000 maunds	At nominal price.
Town refuse compost	25,000 tons	36,000 tons	At nominal price.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 68.

AVERAGE YIELD PER ACRE OF DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF PADDY IN BENGAL.

Districts.	*Aus.* Lbs.	*Aman.* Lbs.	*Boro.* Lbs.
(1) 24-Parganas	1,579	2,237	..
(2) Nadia	1,309	1,386	..
(3) Murshidabad	1,382	1,750	1,866
(4) Jessore	1,515	1,979	1,306
(5) Khulna	1,218	1,682	1,734
(6) Burdwan	1,558	1,574	1,850
(7) Birbhum	1,565	1,821	..
(8) Bankura	1,389	1,925	..
(9) Midnapore	1,434	1,402	1,322
(10) Hooghly	1,373	1,512	1,200
(11) Howrah	1,211	1,672	..
(12) Rajshahi	1,514	1,408	1,926
(13) Dinajpur	1,240	1,821	1,613
(14) Jalpaiguri	1,237	1,531	..
(15) Darjeeling	1,232	1,432	..
(16) Rangpur	1,646	1,354	2,037
(17) Bogra	1,427	1,566	..
(18) Pabna	1,206	1,213	1,310
(19) Malda	1,477	1,222	1,733
(20) Dacca	1,512	1,606	1,198
(21) Mymensingh	1,136	1,400	1,662
(22) Faridpur	1,357	1,461	1,550
(23) Bakarganj	1,331	1,766	1,555
(24) Chittagong	1,640	1,738	1,558
(25) Tippera	1,531	1,654	1,856
(26) Noakhali	1,386	1,237	..
(27) Chittagong Hill Tracts ..	1,310	1,266	..
Average for Bengal ..	1,382	1,598	1,600*
Average for Bengal ..	1,437	1,632	1,794†

1 maund = 82⅔ lbs.

*According to the quinquennial report for 1937-38 to 1941-42.

†Average of preceding three quinquennium.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (b) of starred question No. 68.

Districts.		Cultivable but uncultivated land (in acres).
(1) 24-Parganas	...	141,000
(2) Nadia	...	213,000
(3) Murshidabad	...	75,000
(4) Jessore	...	188,000
(5) Khulna	...	112,000
(6) Burdwan	...	127,000
(7) Birbhum	...	81,000
(8) Bankura	...	227,000
(9) Midnapore	...	277,000
(10) Hooghly	...	34,000
(11) Howrah	...	12,000
(12) Rajshahi	...	84,000
(13) Dinajpur	...	175,000
(14) Jalpaiguri	...	137,000
(15) Darjeeling	...	...
(16) Rangpur	...	107,000
(17) Bogra	...	21,000
(18) Pabna	...	75,000
(19) Malda	...	76,000
(20) Dacca	...	39,000
(21) Mymensingh	...	216,000
(22) Faridpur	...	103,000
(23) Bakarganj	...	64,000
(24) Chittagong	...	57,000
(25) Tippera	...	29,000
(26) Noakhali	...	47,000
(27) Chittagong Hill Tracts	...	442,880
Total	...	3,159,880

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why of all districts in Bengal, Pabna is the lowest as regards the production of the aman paddy?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: That is a matter of expert opinion.

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the source of information with regard to the average yield per acre, as shown in the statement in reply to clause (*a*)?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: These figures are obtained from the Collectors of districts where Circle Officers prepare crop survey reports and also departmental officers prepare their own reports. All these reports are submitted to the Director of Agriculture's office where an Assistant is there to compile and check all those figures.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what efforts have been made by the Government during the last one year to increase the productive capacity of the Pabna district as regards the aman crop?.

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I refer the honourable member to my answer (*d*).

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to a remark in the Agricultural Statistics of India, 1938-39, page 313-314, issued by the Government of India that as a result of experiments conducted, the average fertility of Bengal for each variety of rice has been fixed at a lower rate than at the previous quinquennium?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have not seen any such report.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: In the light of the answer given in (*c*), does the Hon'ble Minister think it necessary that there is necessity for a province-wide soil survey for Bengal?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Yes, as the honourable members are aware, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has already given an indication in his yesterday's budget speech that a sum of Rs.2 lakhs has been allotted for such a scheme.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what effort has been made by Government during the last year to bring under acreage the uncultivated and fallow lands of Bengal?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Government is making an attempt to acquire waste lands to bring them under cultivation.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether the area of cultivable waste land is based upon the district settlement records?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No. On the result of the complete enumeration held by the Department in 1944.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি যে average yield of paddy per acre in Bengal সম্বন্ধে পুরাতন খবর কেন দেওয়া হয়েছে এবং ১৯৪২ সালের পরে average আর কেন করা হয় নাই?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: It has been done according to the quinquennial report. The question did not specify any period for which the acreage was called for.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি যে তাঁর departmentএ এতগুলি officer এবং voucher থাকা সত্ত্বেও up-to-date খবর দেওয়া হল না কেন?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The up-to-date figure is not at present ready.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: With reference to the answer in the statement under (*d*) where it is said that 10,000 maunds of Sun-hemp and 400 maunds of Dhaincha have been distributed freely, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who was the recommending officer, and whether any supervision was made and who was the officer who was personally concerned?

Mr. SPEAKER: You are putting two many questions together. Please split up your questions.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on whose recommendation free distribution was made?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: On the recommendation of D.O.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the area of cultivable land includes grazing land?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I think it includes grazing land.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he does not consider that the grazing land should remain as grazing land?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Yes, that is necessary.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that these figures are gathered by the Circle Officers through the village chaukidars?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I am not aware of that.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: With reference to the answer regarding average yield of different varieties of paddy, is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that paddy has failed in the area covering 500 to 600 villages in the western part of the Bogra District owing to attack by dangerous and harmful insects? Will he be pleased to state whether Government have found out any remedy to save paddy from further attacks?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I do not think this question arises out of the main question.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the average yield per acre of different varieties of paddy in Bengal as also the area of cultivable but uncultivated land given in the Agricultural statistics of the Government of India are quite different from those given here?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No; I do not think so.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Is it or is it not a fact that the Provincial Government as alleged in the Guide of current financial statistics issued by the Government of India supplies these figures to the Government of India on which basis these reports are issued?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have no information.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that for want of oilcakes and chemical fertilisers, agricultural condition of the Province is deteriorating?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I cannot say whether it is due to that, but there are great demands for these fertilisers.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that much of the waste lands in the district of Bogra is due to the destruction of crops by water hyacinth?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I don't think that this question arises.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what efforts are being made by the Bengal Government to increase the production, if any, of fertilisers in Bengal?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Government have got a scheme at present.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is not a fact that provision was made in the last year's budget on this fertiliser scheme, and if so, what is the progress of that scheme?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: It is in progress.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the agriculturists in the Province can expect more liberal supply of fertilisers?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Government is taking steps to increase the distribution of fertilisers as liberally as possible.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any thorough scrutiny has been made as to the application of chemical fertilisers on the basis of the short-term and long-term effect on the soil?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Yes; it has been made.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the supply of ammonium sulphate has been restricted in the district of Bankura during recent years?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No such matter has been brought to the notice of Government.

Mr. MUHAMMAD RUKONUDDIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any scheme for making compost out of water hyacinth?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Yes.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether waste land in Nadia remains fallow due to lack of fertility?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: It may be.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any control exercised over oilcakes in the Province?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Yes.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us what is the source of his information that so much manure has been sold—whether it is from the actual records kept by the subordinate officers or has he got any other source to ascertain that?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: It was obtained from the Director of Agriculture.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that insect is responsible for the destruction of paddy in different parts of the Dacca district?

Mr. SPEAKER: This question does not come within the purview of the main question which deals with the improvement of soil fertility and insect has nothing to do with soil fertility.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Police enquiries in respect of a primary school started by Mahila Atma Raksha Samity, Midnapore.

23. Mr. RADHANATH DAS: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that after the last famine at Midnapore a primary school was started in May, 1945, in Chota Bazar at Midnapore town by the Mahila Atma Raksha Samity;

(*ii*) that the primary school is now running its second year and a large number of students both boys and girls are receiving their education in that school;

(*iii*) that since the very beginning of the foundation of that school the local officers of the Intelligence Branch have been trying to abolish that school;

(*iv*) that on the 1st July, 1946, the thana officer came to that school and made the following enquiries to the school authorities, viz.—

(1) who are the founders of that school,

(2) what are the names of the students and teachers of that school, and

(3) whether any Government sanction had been obtained for the school; and

(*v*) that these enquiries are according to the orders of the Government or made by police excesses and *zoolum*?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, Government propose to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*)(*i*) and (*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) No.

(*iv*) and (*v*) Some enquiries were made by the police under the orders of the District Magistrate to whom the school authorities applied for remission of amusement tax for staging a drama.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Government action after Coroner's verdict in connection with police firing on students' demonstration in Dharamtola Street.

24. Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state with reference to the majority verdict of the jury at the inquest held by Mr. A. Haque, City Coroner, in connection with a students' demonstration in Dharamtola Street, Calcutta, on the 21st November, 1945, in which one Rameswar Banerjee was shot dead as a result of police firing, what steps, if any, the Government have taken against the police, specially against the Inspector Hammond, who have been found guilty by the City Coroner of causing death by gunshot wound without justification?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) and (*b*) Government have been advised by their legal advisers that the verdict returned by the jury was perverse and was against the weight of evidence, circumstances and probabilities of the case. No action has, therefore, been taken against the police officers concerned.

Development Programme under Public Health Department.

25. Maulvi MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health Department be pleased to state briefly—

(*i*) the Development Programme under the Public Health Department;

(*ii*) the Rural Water Supply Scheme; and

(*iii*) the Water Supply and Drainage Scheme in municipal areas?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that epidemic diseases like cholera, dysentery, etc., are prevalent throughout the year in almost all the rural areas in the Province for want of good drinking water?

(*c*) If so, does the Government consider the desirability of sinking one tube-well for every 300 people in each village?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*) Copies of the schemes included in the Development Programme of the Public Health Department are laid on the Library Table.

Scheme 187 deals with Rural Water Supply and Scheme 191 with Municipal Water Supply and Drainage.

(*b*) Epidemics of cholera, dysentery and other water-borne diseases do frequently break out in the rural areas of Bengal. Inadequate supply of pure drinking water is one of the important causes of these epidemics, the other being lack of proper sanitation, specially lack of satisfactory methods of disposal of nightsoil and refuse.

(*c*) The Health Survey and Development Committee recommended one source of water supply for every 500 of the population as the short-term objective. Government have accepted this as the objective to be achieved within the next five years under Post-War Development Scheme No. 187.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many tube-wells does the Government propose to sink throughout Bengal in the course of the coming year?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The target that we have in view is one tube-well for 500 persons as recommended by the Bhore Committee.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: My question was how many tube-wells the Government of Bengal propose to sink in the course of the coming year?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am sorry I cannot give the number. We are working it up and as I have said the target is one per 500 persons.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that a large number of tube-wells already sunk are out of use for want of repair?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Government have made arrangements for repairing the unserviceable tube-wells and also those tube-wells that are lying in derelict conditions.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government has any machinery for the repair of these bad tube-wells in the rural areas?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir. We have got a batch of tube-well mechanics and mistries who have been sent to the rural areas. In addition to that we are getting the work done locally through the agency of District Boards who have competent staff to handle the work.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the Rowlands Committee drew the attention of Government to the fact that people in the Sundarbans area bring drinking water from ten or twelve miles off? Is it in the contemplation of Government to sink tube-wells in the Sunderbans area within the coming year?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Government are aware of the inadequacy of supply of drinking water in the Sundarbans area and that is exactly why Government have drawn up the scheme of sinking tube-wells so as to provide one tube-well for every five hundred persons under the Post-War Development Scheme.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware of the fact that the sinking of tube-wells in the Sundarbans area has more than once been found to be useless due to the saline condition of the soil?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, that is so; but experiments have been made which go to show that if tube-wells of sufficient depth are sunk, then pure drinking water can be had.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Does the Hon'ble Minister contemplate the desirability of having tanks in places where tube-wells do not function well—I mean, reserve tanks?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: We may have to resort to that, but at present Government do not view that provision of tanks or ring wells or concrete ring wells for rural drinking water has given satisfaction. Therefore Government's objective is to provide tube-wells as far as possible. In the event of that not being possible, Government will have, as the last resort, to provide ferro-concrete ring wells to ensure protection from infection.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is aware that as the machinery for the repair of tube-wells does not work at all, therefore the old tube-wells in rural areas are lying useless now?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Quite a good number of tube-wells are useless now, but efforts are now being made to put all the existing tube-wells in working order, either through the agencies of Government or through the contractors or through the agencies of local self-governing bodies.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি এই যে tube-well গুলি খারাপ অবস্থায় পড়ে থাকে এর জন্য visiting mistry নিযুক্ত করা হবে কি না; এবং তারা ডাক্তারের মত ঘুরে ঘুরে দেখবেন, না দরখাস্ত করলে যাবেন?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Government's intention is to put all the tube-wells in working order, and after that the responsibilty of maintaining them will vest in local bodies.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is the intention of Government to give effect to the recommendation of the Rowlands Committee that in the Sundarbans area where tube-wells and tanks cannot exist, there should be supply of drinking water by launches at regular intervals?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: That is not our objective at the present moment, but if, as I have stated earlier, we cannot sink tube-wells, we will resort to other methods for the supply of drinking water.

Mr. MD. ABDUS SALAM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the machinery of Government has begun work for repair of old tube-wells in mofassil areas?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, work has already started throughout the province.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Death of a female patient in Dacca Mitford Hospital.

*69. **Mr. GANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health (Medical) Department be pleased to state if it is a fact—

(*i*) that one Usharani Devi was admitted into the Dacca Mitford Hospital on June 16th, 1946, and was allotted a seat in the Ahsanulla Medical Ward;

(*ii*) that she expired on or about July 16th, 1946;

(*iii*) that her death news was not communicated to her guardian by th authority; and

(*iv*) that her body was *post-mortemed* against the desire of her relations

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Ministe be pleased to state—

(*i*) the cause of her sudden death;

(*ii*) the time when the seriousness of her condition was reported to he relations or guardian;

(*iii*) the reason for not communicating her death news to her guardian and

(*iv*) the reason for *post-mortem* examination of her body against the desire of her relations?

MINISTER in charge of the HEALTH (MEDICAL) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*)(*i*) and (*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) The patient was visited daily by her relatives specially during meal times. The patient died at 1 p.m. and her relatives reached the hospital soon after her death when the news was communicated to them.

(*iv*) Yes, a *post-mortem* examination was held as the case was of medico-legal import.

(*b*) (*i*) The patient died during an operation for the treatment of her illness, i.e., the application of a plaster jacket for tuberculosis of the spine: in particular the cause of death was the combination of the illness, the operation and the anæsthetic. Technically, asphyxia was given as the immediate cause.

(*ii*) It was assumed that the relatives understood the seriousness of the patient's condition, especially when an operation had to be performed on that account. Hence the relatives were not informed specifically that the condition was serious.

(*iii*) Please see reply to question (*a*)(*iii*). Scarcely any time was left between the arrival of patient's relatives and the hour of death of the patient.

(*iv*) All deaths under anæsthesia are of medico-legal significance and require medico-legal *post-mortem* to elucidate the cause of death.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the doctor first reported that the patient died of heart failure?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, it amounts to that.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that after her death the Civil Surgeon tried to restore the activities of her heart and was successful after ten or fifteen minutes' cardiac massage?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: All efforts were made by the medical men to restore her to health, and everything that could possibly be done was administered. Cardiac massage was tried and injection of adrenalin was tried, but in spite of all these attempts the patient did not recover.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Is it a fact that Santosh Bhattacharjee, brother of the patient, applied in a petition to the Government stating that he saw the patient two hours before the news of her death?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of that.

Mr. GANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Surgeon-General, the Chief Minister and the medical officers concerned were approached by him with the said petition?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I have no such information. On the other hand when this question was received by me I was not satisfied with the position, and therefore I asked for a special enquiry into the matter. I had a suspicion that the patient died on the operation table. Therefore it was necessary that an enquiry should be made as to the real and direct cause of her death, and a special officer was deputed to Dacca to enquire into the case and submit a report. I have now got his report and I do not think there is any reason to feel that all efforts were not made for taking every kind of protection. As a matter of fact all steps were taken by the medical attendants to give her relief and bring her back to life, but all their efforts proved abortive.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the name of the officer who was in charge of the hospital in which the lady died and the names of the persons responsible for the operation?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The plaster was put on by Dr. S. K. De, and Dr. Chaudhury, Teacher of Surgery, performed the abdominal incision and cardiac massage.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the putting of plaster of jacket is a serious procedure?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, from the information I have before me it is not a serious procedure.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether anæsthetic is usually not applied to such an operation?

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Banerjee, we should not go into too much of details, I think.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Sir, as a medical man I have an idea of these things, and it is a most important case. This lady dies on the administration of chloroform. I was myself in plaster jacket for five years, and therefore I have first hand knowledge as well.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right. You put the question.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it was at all necessary to put the patient under chloroform for a plaster of jacket?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I entertained the same suspicion as the honourable member is now having, namely, that death was due to asphyxia, the patient was suffocated during anæsthesia, and that is why I put as one of the terms of reference of enquiry whether it was due to an overdose or an underdose of anæsthesia and I felt that if there was an overdose of anæsthesia the patient would die of asphyxia and if there was an underdose the patient might die of shock. So I had the point carefully examined by an officer from Calcutta—a high ranking Medical Officer from Calcutta. His report clearly shows that it is not so. He said that asphyxia was found because the patient was put into the Iron Lung and as they had to go through all the procedure in attempting to resuscitate heart and after the failure of the attempt to resuscitate heart naturally there were symptoms of asphyxia afterwards. That is the sum and substance of the reply given to the point that I raised when the question came to me.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the cause of asphyxia—application of chloroform or any other thing?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I think it would be better if I place the whole report before the members of the House. This is the report:

It is difficult to explain adequately to the lay mind the technicalities involved in this case. However, the salient points are as follows:—

The case was one of long-standing tubercular disease of the spine. This diagnosis was established in the Mitford Hospital and a correct decision arrived at, to plaster the patient in hyper-extension under anæsthesia. This is not a serious procedure. The safest anæsthetic that we know of, that is, gas and oxygen, was administered. There was a sudden and unexpected respiratory failure (unexpected as the patient had already had an anæsthetic before without any untoward effects) and cessation of the heart beat. At this stage clinical death had set in. The resuscitation treatment adopted is well recognised in such an eventuality, i.e., procedures adopted by the anæsthetist, artificial respiration, administration of stimulants, sub-cutaneously and intra-cardiacally and finally cardiac massage which necessitates an abdominal incision and massage of the heart through the diaphragm (the sheet of muscle which separates the abdominal cavity from the chest cavity). At this stage the heart beats returned as they often do but there was no return of normal respiration. In other words, the patient was dead. I cannot but admire the ingenuity and the resourcefulness of the doctors in using at this moment the iron lung in an attempt to revive respiration when manual methods had failed. This facility is hardly ever available on the threshold of an operating theatre for this purpose and it is doubtful if any Surgeon has ever used this method in the history of Western Medicine in this country. I may add that such a catastrophe is the lot of surgeons off and on in their career for reasons not clearly understood. The effect of the iron lung aided by an artificially stimulated heart was to pump unoxygenated blood (that is blue blood) into the systemic circulation with the results described post mortem. It will thus be seen that it would be a gross distortion of the medical factual knowledge in this case to attribute the cause of death to the iron lung. In my opinion the cause of death was directly a primary central respiratory failure as a result of anæsthesia and indirectly prolonged toxaemia and debility from a chronic morbid process.

I can find no grounds of criticism whatsoever in the management of this case. A death on the operation table is a medico-legal case and post-mortem was therefore performed.

To revert to honourable member's queries—because I had put some definite questions. My question was—Does asphyxia which was given as the immediate cause, denote that the patient died of an overdose of anæsthetic? The reply was—

(1) Application of plaster under gas and oxygen anæsthesia—an abdominal incision was performed for cardiac massage as a resuscitating measure after respiratory and cardiac failure under anæsthesia.

(2) The death took place on the operation table.

(3) Asphyxia was the sequel to the failure of the respiratory centre which is situated in the brain. There is no question of over dosage in this case, but death was due to the effect of the anæsthetic on the respiratory centre.

(4) The anæsthetic was administered by Dr. S. K. Bose, the official Anæsthetist at the Mitford Hospital who is a qualified doctor,—because I put that query also whether that doctor had necessary qualifications.

(5) The plaster was put on by Dr. S. K. Dey, a House Surgeon at the Mitford Hospital, Dr. Chaudhury, Teacher of Surgery, performed the abdominal incision and cardiac massage.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why plaster jacket was applied after one year of her admission to the hospital?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid I do not know whether it was applied after one year. I made an exhaustive enquiry.

Placing cases of Defence of India Rule prisoners before the Advisory Board.

***70. Sj. RAJANI KANTA PRAMANIK:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether Government has issued any orders or made any rules directing cases of convicts under (*i*) all or (*ii*) certain specific rules of the Defence of India Act to be put up before the Advisory Board?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government is considering the desirability of issuing any such orders?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlur Rahman): (*a*) The honourable member is referred to the provisions of Chapter XIII-A of the Bengal Jail Code, Volume I (7th Edition), a copy of which is placed on the Library Table. These provisions apply to Defence of India Act convicts as well.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Sj. RAJANI KANTA PRAMANIK: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি যে jail code এর chapter XIII Actএ provision রয়েছে যে D. I. R. prisonersদের case Advisory Board এ considered হবে ; ওটা কি কেবল বইয়ের পাতাতেই সীমাবদ্ধ, না সত্যই তাদের case Advisory Boardএর কাছে আসে ?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: There is no bar to these cases being examined by the Advisory Board.

Point of Privilege.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I rise on a point of privilege. I sent for the Jail Code. I have got the Bengal Jail Code, Volume I (7th Edition), but I find that Chapter XIII-A is not there.

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I have got it with me. If the honourable member wants it he may have it.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: I have not got it from the Library.

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I think this is the latest edition.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mine is also 7th Edition.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a small matter. I think that can be made up between the honourable members.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: We have been referred in the answer to the provisions of Chapter XIII-A of the Bengal Jail Code, Volume I (7th Edition). I have got the book here but there is no Chapter XIII-A.

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I think the correction slip is not there.

Mr. SPEAKER: Both these copies are 7th edition books but yours, Mr. Datta, does not contain the correction slips.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: On a point of privilege. There was an occasion in this House when a Bill was printed in two different forms in the same gazette. At that time you gave a direction to the Government that no such discrepancies should occur and there must be an agreed record. I think, Sir, you should give a direction to the Government that there should be no speaking in two voices in these matters of record.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: The question may be held over until the edition containing the particular Chapter referred to has been laid on the Library Table.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, this question cannot be held over simply because in one of the copies the latest correction slip is not pasted.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: There would be no safeguard against this sort of mistake.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is the look-out of the members.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: It is incumbent on the department to see that the particular document referred to is actually placed on the Library Table. It is no good placing a volume of Queen Victoria's reign when a question is asked in 1946.

Mr. SPEAKER: I know it is the duty of the department to place all latest correction slips in certain Manuals and Books. The Librarian may be taken to task but the question cannot be held over.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: It is the fault of the Library which is your department.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a very trivial matter.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: Not a trivial matter, Sir.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: What is your direction in this connection, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: I say those who are interested ought to have copies of up-to-date correction slips.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Copies are not available in the publication office and are not for sale anywhere. If that is so, Sir, the only source of information is by reference to books placed on the Library Table.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Nobody could have anticipated that the Hon'ble Minister would make an answer in such a manner that he would have to refer to a particular document, a public document though it may be and in placing it on the Library Table he would see that a particular page is missing or a particular chapter is not there. If we could anticipate that, we might have looked into it. I suggest therefore that it is only fair to expect that the department concerned should take care to place on the Library Table the proper document which has been referred to by them. That is the custom, and it is really a matter of privilege to us. Otherwise members will be in a most helpless condition. If, Sir, the matter had been placed with us a day earlier we might have taken care to buy copies or get copies or do otherwise as you might be pleased to direct. I therefore suggest that it is only fair that this question should be held over and up-to-date book may be placed on the library table. If the matter had been brought to your notice in time, by a simple direction from you it would not have been difficult to paste a correction slip.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member should realise that the Hon'ble Minister who has referred to this particular edition of the book does not know that the Library does not contain the latest correction slip.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: That Hon'ble Minister says that he placed it on the table. Therefore, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister cannot say so without having placed it. The Hon'ble Minister must have known that there was a correction slip. He might have got a typed copy of it afterwards. The answer is "is placed". That is not a fact. The answer is at variance with fact.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not know, if any book was placed on the Library Table or not. I will ascertain it. In the mean time we shall proceed with the next question.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Then the discussion is held over?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Police report about Government employees before their confirmation in service.

***71. Mr. ASHUTOSH MULLICK:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether police reports are required about Government employees before their confirmation;

(*b*) whether such reports are required from the C.I.D. or the I.B. of the Department;

(*c*) whether such reports are required to find out the moral past of the candidate or only his political past;

(*d*) the number of applicants for Government service who have been refused appointment during the 12 months ending 30th June, 1946, for—

(*i*) past convictions under the Indian Penal Code,

(*ii*) past convictions for political activities,

(*iii*) past detention as political prisoner without trial, and

(*iv*) for connection or suffered connection with Congress;

(*e*) whether the Government contemplate to keep out from Government service every one who had or has any connection with any Congress or other revolutionary party whose declared objective is India's political liberty;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that reports about persons from subordinate Intelligence Branch are not always dependable as trustworthy;

(*g*) whether such reports are verified independently; and

(*h*) whether the Government intend to use the C.I.D. (and not the I.B.) for investigating the growing corruption among Government servants?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) and (*g*) Yes.

(*b*) From the I.B. and the general police.

(*c*) The political past, and also the moral past so far as criminal proceedings are concerned.

(*d*) Figures are not readily available and Government consider that the amount of labour involved in compiling them would be out of all proportion to the value of the result.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) Adverse reports from subordinate Intelligence Branch are always scrutinised by the Deputy Inspector-General, Intelligence Branch, personally.

(*h*) Even at present the C.I.D. and not the I.B. is, as far as possible, employed for the investigation of corruption, except in the Civil Supplies Department for which the Enforcement Branch is utilised.

Point of Order.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: On a point of order, Sir. With regard to answer (*d*) where the Hon'ble Minister has stated: "Figures are not readily available and Government consider that the amount of labour involved in compiling them would be out of all proportion to the value of the result", it is merely giving an opinion. What was asked for was fact and where it is a question of opinion just as a question is not permissible which has no reference to fact, so an answer which is only an opinion and has no reference to fact is not permissible. I therefore submit that you will be pleased to rule that an answer of this nature is absolutely out of order with regard to the rules relating to questions, and therefore this answer should be inadmissible.

Mr. SPEAKER: We have always allowed that.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: On this point of order, Sir, if it has arisen now, you are called upon to give your ruling after due deliberation on the point. It is a very important point. If you allow gratuitous opinion then, Sir, the rules relating to putting of questions and answering questions would lose all meaning and sense. Therefore, Sir, I submit that it is out of order for the Hon'ble Minister in giving answers to give gratuitous opinion. We are not concerned with the opinion of the Hon'ble Minister. If they like they may refuse to answer or they may take notice, but this gratuitous opinion in my submission is out of order and this should be ruled out of order. That is my submission.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has stated in the answer that it is not profitable or useful to collect this information. This is not an opinion, but he is only giving the reason.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With regard to the latter part I submit, and I am sure you will agree with us, it is a matter of opinion. I emphatically submit, Sir, that it will undoubtedly be of good result and value if this information were supplied. It is my opinion against the Hon'ble Minister's opinion, and his opinion is of no value. The rules pertaining to questions rule out such gratuitous opinion either on one side or on the other. If Hon'ble Ministers have got away often enough with this sort of gratuitous opinion they should not get away this time when a point of order has arisen, and I seek your ruling, Sir, over it to safeguard the privilege of members.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar knows that I have referred to such point of order more than once.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: No, Sir. No point of order arose on this point.

Mr. SPEAKER: With regard to questions Government is at liberty to frame their answers in any way they like and I have no authority to compel them to frame their answers in a particular way. If honourable members are not satisfied they may put supplementary questions or they may put fresh questions or they may take some other method which lies in their power. But the Speaker in such matters is helpless.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I submit, Sir, that this is a new point altogether. Government is quite at liberty to give answers within the framework of the rules as they like. They may refuse to answer. An answer may be adequate or inadequate, but the answer cannot be of such a nature which will be quite out of order with reference to rules. My specific point in this case is here is an answer which is a gratuitous opinion and as such quite out of order. I only ask you to be pleased to consider this specific point. I am not complaining about adequacy or inadequacy of the answer.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have not added a single new argument when you rose for the second time. This argument was placed before me previously.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: But you referred to the adequacy of the answer.

Mr. SPEAKER: No; not about adequacy. But with the form of the answer I have got nothing to do. If there is any reference to opinion it must have reference to the question and not to the answer.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: In view of answer (*c*) and in view of changed political circumstances, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of dropping the practice of making enquiries into the political past of new entrants to offices under Government?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have already said that the police did not enquire into the Congress members' activities for any job.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: With reference to answer (*h*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps Government have taken to investigate into the corruption in the Enforcement Department as well as in the C.I.D.?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (*a*) and (*g*), will the Hon'ble Minister kindly tell us who are or were these independent agencies?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Sir, Government have got an independent machinery already through which the enquiry was made.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Was it an independent enquiry?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Independent means that it was done by special officers of Government.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of dropping the practice of making enquiries of the political and moral past of new entrants?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I am sorry Government cannot do that.

Mr. SPEAKER: Questions over.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Sir, in that case this question which is very important should be held over.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have no objection.

With regard to question No. 70 it has been ascertained that no copy of the Jail Code was placed on the Library table. Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta has got a copy, but that is the library copy which does not contain all the

up-to-date correction slips pasted on it. So it appears that Government have not supplied a copy of the Jail Code with all the correction slips pasted on it. So this question is also held over.

As it is now time for prayer I adjourn the House for fifteen minutes.

(The House was then adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(After adjournment).

Privilege Motion.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: On a point of privilege, Sir. Here I am going to place before the House certain things by which an honourable member of this House had made a reflection on the ruling that has been given by the Deputy Speaker on a certain occasion. Once for all you have to determine whether any ruling given by the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker should be the subject matter of public discussion or whether any unauthentic reflection could be made on the ruling given by the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker. Here I may mention that in one copy of the Azad of 15th February (৩রা ফ which it is stated that——

"নোয়াখালী ও ত্রিপুরার দুঃখের কথা, বিনা খেসারতে জমিদারী উচ্ছেদ, প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা বিল, মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বিল, মোসলেম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গ্রামে গ্রামে গুলী চালনা—এই সব ব্যাপারে তাদের দাবী সমর্থনের জানাতে ছাত্রেরা পরিষদ প্রাঙ্গনে গিয়েছিল।" But I must say that the actual fact is contrary to this "তাদের উপর যখন লাঠি চালনা চলছিল তখন আমি অতীতের প্রথামত আইন সভা স্থগিত রাখিতে ডেপুটী স্পীকারকে অনুরোধ করি। আমার প্রস্তাব মত কাজ হইলে ঘটনাটি এতদূর গড়াইত না।"

Of course, Sir, it does not require any elucidation that it has made an ample reflection on the ruling given by the Deputy Speaker. Once for all the House has to take a decision whether any honourable member belonging to this House will have any chance or necessity or any scope of making any reflection on the ruling given by the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker, and whether it is a breach of the privileges enjoyed by the members of the House or not.

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall look into the matter and give my ruling later on.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: May I suggest that this matter be referred to the Privileges Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall examine that also.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Thank you, Sir.

Statement on Tramways Strike.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg leave to make a statement on the Tramways strike which still continues.

The other day there was a motion for adjournment of the House to discuss the matter, but permission was refused. Government are aware of the serious inconvenience which is being caused by the continuance of the strike, and would like to be given an opportunity to state all relevant facts in the hope that their action has the full approval of the House.

Relations between the Tramway Company and their employees as represented by the Calcutta Tramway Workers' Union have for some time now been far from harmonious. In 1944 the Union gave notice of a strike which was averted on reference of the matters in dispute to Adjudication. In 1945 the Union put forward a list of as many as 39 demands which had again to be referred to adjudication. This time the Union have put forward seven demands including a demand for increment of basic wages and revision

of scales and grades for all categories of staff and a demand for two months' pay to be given immediately to every member of the staff as bonus. The Union gave notice on the 7th January that unless these demands were conceded by the morning of the 21st January, the workers would resort to a complete strike and would continue the same until the demands were fulfilled.

On receipt of the strike notice the Labour Commissioner endeavoured to settle the matters in dispute by conciliation. He failed. Having regard to the importance to the Tramways as a transport service for the Calcutta area, he proposed reference of the dispute for adjudication. When the Workers' Union served a notice to resort to a strike I was in Delhi. On my return I was told that efforts had been made for conciliation without any fruitful result. In spite of the Adjudication order I called the representatives of labour to a conference and asked them to come to a settlement and accept adjudication orders passed by the Government. However in spite of my appeal to them they did not accept my advice. I asked them to see me again. Meanwhile I sent for the Acting Agent of the Tramway Company, Mr. Cross. The Acting Agent saw me. I told him the whole situation and asked him as to whether he could do something in respect of bonus and increase in basic wage before the Adjudicator hears both sides and gives decision. He pleaded for time to communicate to the Directors at home. The day following when the workers saw me again at my residence I pleaded with them to grant time and postpone the strike, if at all, to a later date. The workers' representatives refused to grant any time. This conference took place one or two days before 21st when the actual strike was resorted to. I told the workers' representatives the position of Government in the matter of dispute between the employer and the employee. The true course left open is a settlement by conciliation; failing that Government could order adjudication. I told them if the Tramway workers went on strike even after the adjudication order the strike would be illegal and in that case Government would be forced to take action and that would not be fair either to them or to Government. They did not listen to my advice and resorted to an illegal strike according to the notice on the 21st January.

Government made an order on the 14th January appointing Mr. Gupta, a member of the Indian Civil Service and an officer of Judicial experience with previous knowledge of adjudication work, to adjudicate in the dispute. Copies of the order were duly sent to the Company as well as to the Workers' Union. Government issued a press note on the same day late in the afternoon announcing for public information that the Tramways dispute had been referred to adjudication and that it was an offence for workers to remain on strike and for leaders who are not workers to instigate its continuance.

Notwithstanding this, the strike commenced on the 21st. On the 24th Hon'ble the Chief Minister issued a statement deprecating continuance of the strike, and while he uttered a warning against the consequence of continuance of the strike, he made a fervent appeal to workers to resume work and await the Adjudicator's decision. There was no response from the workers. A few days after the continuance of the strike some Muslim workers saw me at my residence. I told them the same thing that they had done an illegal act and advised them to call off the strike and resume their duties and if they wanted my personal intervention I would be prepared to intervene provided they called off the strike. A few days later the workers saw Mr. Abul Hashim, the Secretary of the Bengal Provincial Muslim League. Mr. Hashim had conversation with me over the phone. I told him the same thing that "you will please ask those men to call off the strike and I will personally intervene in the matter in spite of the adjudication order but unless they call off the strike I am sorry I cannot take any action." The President of the Union, Mr. Ismail, wrote to me a letter on 30th January. "Sir, our representatives had been present when

Mr. Abul Hashim, Secretary of the Bengal Provincial Muslim League, talked to you over the phone yesterday on the question of settling the tramway strike. They were given to understand by Mr. Hashim that you would be willing to discuss with us how the question of bonus and increase in the basic wage could be settled straightway even without referring to adjudication.

If that be so, will you kindly let us know when it will be convenient for you to discuss with our representatives the above question?" Sd. M. Ismail.

I replied but no response came from the workers. The reply that I gave them was that as the strike had been illegally launched I could not discuss with them the terms or the demands unless it was called off. The very same thing I told Mr. Hashim. "Let the Tramway workers call off the strike and then I would be prepared to personally intervene in the matter before it goes to the adjudicator". Even now my offer stands. What I told Mr. Hashim was that "if the strike is called off I am prepared to meet their representatives and discuss with them the question of bonus and increase in basic wage". Well, my doors are always open. I have tried to alleviate the condition of labourers after my assumption of office as Minister-in-charge of Labour. The representatives of labour can see me at any time and tell me their grievances. But in this connection I must tell you that in spite of my repeated warnings the Tramway Workers' Union launched on an illegal strike.

Then the workers approached the Mayor of Calcutta, Mr. Osman. He had talks with me and he told me that the workers wanted to see me and I told him that the workers were always welcome to see me in spite of the adjudication order.

Four or five days back some of the workers saw me and they pressed me to get their demands acceded to by the Tramway Company. I gave the same reply. In this connection I might mention that on these three occasions every time new batch of workers came and saw me. The first batch of workers including the Secretary and Achariya came and saw me. The second time when the Muslim workers saw me there was only one man of the first batch and on the third occasion when they saw me in my office they were absolutely a new group. I told them that "that is not the way in which you should behave. Your President who wrote to me and your Secretary and Achariya who saw me on the first occasion should have come. Is this the way in which the Tramway Workers' Union should behave?"

The continuance of the strike raises certain very important issues. One is that a party in dispute asks to be the judge of its own demands and to be allowed to bypass the machinery provided by law for settlement of trade disputes. If the Tramway Workers' Union will not take part in the adjudication proceeding and must continue the strike, there is reason to apprehend that other workers' unions equally well-organised might be tempted to follow their example. The other is whether Government are expected to continue to condone the commission of an illegal act. Not only workers are refusing to resume work, but many others who are not workers are instigating the workers to continue to be on strike.

Government have noticed a statement made by the Union in the press that if their demand for minimum wages was accepted, they might call off the strike. The Tramway Co. sanctioned a certain increase in basic pays from the 1st January. The Union was not satisfied. Now the point that I want to emphasise is that there is no legislation which lays down what should be the basic wage in certain undertaking or in certain industry. All that legislation can provide is the procedure to be followed in determining a basic wage. The issue regarding basic wage has been included in the reference for adjudication and Government have given an assurance that

they will publish the entire text of the Adjudicator's decision and take steps to implement it. The Company, I may add, have voluntarily agreed to abide by the Adjudicator's decision.

In the circumstances what, I ask, is the justification for continuance of the strike. This is no case in which a charge can be made of Government standing on its prestige. Government have tried conciliation and offered adjudication. Government have made repeated appeals to the workers to call off the strike. Government have given an assurance that they would fully implement the Adjudicator's decision.

Government must continue to explore every means of bringing the strike to an end. If workers continue to defy the adjudication machinery, the Tramway Co. will be compelled, as the workers are continuing their offence, to terminate their service and employ new hands.

I might mention that in this country in its present stage of industrial development uncertainty of position regarding labour and the constant threat of strikes which seems to be a part of the programme of work of a particular section of labour representatives is hardly conducive to the development of industry. It is impossible to make any headway in this country when everything is in a nascent state of existence. I fully realise that labour must have a living wage but the Government of the day is not unware of it. A popular Government is fully alive to its responsibilities but at the same time it cannot forget its duties to the people so far as the governance of the country in a peaceful manner is concerned. I can assure the House that this Government after its assumption of office has dealt with labour in a fair and square manner and it proposes to pursue the same policy.

I do not like to end on a note of threat. My sympathy with labour is well-known. I need not cite instances, but even during my short term of office I can claim that in quite a good number of cases I personally intervened and brought about satisfactory conclusion of labour strike. I can mention some of these—the Dhakeswari Mill labour strike, the Bata, the Bauria Jute Mills and a few others. I have always tried not only to sympathise with the workers but to help them and in many cases I have told the employers that time has come that employers should change their angle of vision and look at the demands of labourers with toleration and sympathy. I am sorry to say that in this particular case I have not been able to meet with any amount of success. I already told the workers that this is a case in which the public utility concern and the workers should realise the inconvenience that they are putting the public in this matter. Even today my offer stands. Let the workers call off the strike and resume work and I would personally intervene in spite of the adjudication order.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Speaker, as this statement is a long one I am sorry, Sir, we have not been able to follow the statement clearly. I would, therefore, very humbly suggest to the Hon'ble Minister to circulate this statement, so that we may ask questions and we may offer our suggestions for settling the strike. The Hon'ble Minister knows that it is causing a great deal of inconvenience to the public, and we, as much as anybody, are anxious for the settlement of the strike. I suggest that the statement be circulated among the members, so that we can give our suggestions for a settlement.

Mr. SPEAKER: Suggestions outside the House? Inside the House I do not think I can allow a debate on this.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: We can give suggestions to the Hon'ble Minister. We may meet the Hon'ble Minister in a Conference. At this stage I am only making a request for circulation of the statement.

Mr. J. R. WALKER: Surely, Sir, the matter can be easily settled. The strike can easily be settled if the workers accept adjudication as the

Hon'ble Minister has suggested. That is the only way to settle the strike. The machinery is there to settle it and if the workers start work and accept adjudication, the strike is finished. An award will be given and the Tramway Company will have to accept the award given by the adjudicator.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: May I ask the Leader of the European Party if he is opposing the circulation of the statement? The leader of the European Group has this advantage over us that he has been able to follow the statement probably because he has got a previous copy of it. (Cries of "No, no" from the European Benches.) I was merely suggesting.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I have got one copy only. If you ask, then it will be circulated in the usual manner.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Surely the resources of the Government are not so limited that the Hon'ble Minister cannot print more copies. The Hon'ble Minister for Labour cannot be helpless as that.

Mr. J. R. WALKER: I did not object to the circulation of the Minister's statement. What I said was that there was no question of suggestions being made. The machinery is there to settle the strike, namely adjudication.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Circulation is not vetoed, but suggestions vetoed.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: It should be given to the press and the press will publish it in other papers. I have got only one copy.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: The Hon'ble Minister knows it very well that it is the convention of this House that we cannot refer to press reports. We can only deal with reports circulated amongst us.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I think the honourable member knows that he cannot deal also with the statement made on the floor of this House, because this statement is not open to discussion. During the Budget discussions certainly the honourable members are entitled to refer to the statement. But what the Hon'ble Minister for Labour was stating was that in all probability it will be published *in extenso* in all the leading papers and it will not be necessary for Government to circulate this statement. As far as the Leader of the European Group is concerned, we know, all of us know, and I believe that is the main point in the statement of the Hon'ble Minister, that we have offered adjudication. It has been refused by the Tramway workers and they are conducting an illegal strike. There is no dobut regarding that, and when the patience of Government which is merely a mirror of the public is exhausted, then undoubtedly such steps will be taken as can be justified by the conditions and by the law.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Sir, I want to correct one statement. He says that we cannot do anything on the statement, but he knows that we can table a motion for discussion on that. But apart from that I am saying that the Government last time after adjudication went into arbitration. I can tell the House that they have set a bad example and dragged me in as the arbitrator. I hope they will not do that this time.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir——

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your point? I can't allow any discussion.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I am not entering into a debate. With the permission of my leader I wish to make a submission to you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Unless you rise on a point of order or on a point of privilege, I cannot allow any discussion.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, I want to make a submission to you which, if you would only bear with me, you will know in a moment.

Mr. SPEAKER: I want to know whether you are on a point of privilege or a point of order?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Yes, Sir, on a point of privilege. It has been a convention of this House that when a request is made by the Hon'ble the Leader of the Opposition, a request not very difficult to comply with, as a matter of courtesy, there is no question of any other claim or debate over it—it is incumbent on the Government to respond, as a matter of courtesy, to the request made by the Hon'ble the Leader of the Opposition, and from that point of view, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister making this statement through you whether he is prepared to extend the courtesy by complying with the request made by the honourable the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Leader of the House has already made a statement on that, I don't think any more elucidation is necessary on this point.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, let there be no misunderstanding on this point. Government is always ready and prepared to be courteous to the Leader of the Opposition and to meet his views as far as they are reasonable. Undoubtedly, Sir, the Leader of the Opposition has made a suggestion for circulation of this statement. Statements have been made on the floor of this House for years together but up till now no statement has ever been circulated. I wish to make this statement. If the papers are not fairly full, and if there is any doubt regarding the nature of the statement, that is to say if important points in the statement are left out, so that what may be printed in the papers is misleading, we shall certainly endeavour to carry out the wishes of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: All right; we understand what is meant by courtesy.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Courtesy with reservation.

Resolutions disapproving the Ordinances promulgated by the Governor of Bengal, under section 88(1) of the Government of India Act, 1935.

Mr. PROVASH CHANDRA LAHIRI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, এই পরিষদ কক্ষে ১০টি অর্ডিন্যান্স সমবায় যে omnibus বিলটি (A VOICE : এটা বিল নয়, এটা resolution), যে অর্ডিনান্সগুলি আনা হয়েছে সেগুলি Defence of India Rulesএর নামান্তর মাত্র। Defence of India Rules যুদ্ধের সময় এই দেশে প্রযোজ্য হয়েছিল এবং দেশবাসী সকলেই অবগত আছেন যে এই Defence of India Rulesএর দ্বারা দেয় অতিরিক্ত ক্ষমতা সরকার পক্ষ তখন কিভাবে অপপ্রয়োগ করেছেন, এই Defence of India Rulesএ আমাদের তিক্ত অভিজ্ঞতা আছে এবং এ সম্পর্কে আমরা বেশী ভুক্তভোগী। ১৯৪০ সালে এই Defence of India Rulesএর কল্যাণে আমাদের arrest করা হয়, তখন জাপান যুদ্ধে নামেনি এবং ভারতবর্ষের সীমান্তেও কোন যুদ্ধ উপস্থিত হয়নি, তবু এই Defence of India Rulesএ আমাদের arrest করা হয় এবং আমার রাজশাহী জেলার প্রত্যেক মুসলীম লীগ বন্ধুর জানেন যে যখন আমাকে arrest করা হয় তখন আমি Union Boardএর প্রেসিডেণ্ট হিসাবে জনসেবা করছিলাম, তা' সত্ত্বেও আমাকে arrest করা হয়। (A VOICE FROM GOVERNMENT BENCHES : আহা! আহা!!) আমাকে যেভাবে arrest করা হয় সেই রকমভাবে বাঙ্গলার বহু দেশকর্মীকে Defence of India Rulesএর কল্যাণে arrest করা হয়।

Defence of India Rulesএর দ্বারা নানা জিনিষপত্র control করা হয়েছে কিন্তু দেখা গিয়েছে যখনই কোন জিনিষ control করা হয়েছে সঙ্গে সঙ্গে বাজার থেকে সে জিনিষ একেবারে উধাও

হয়ে গিয়েছে। পুলিশ তার কোন কিনারা করতে পারে নাই। আমরা জেল থেকে খবরের কাগজে চোরাবাজার, কালাবাজার এই সব কথা পড়তাম কিন্তু ভেবে ঠিক করতে পারতাম না যে বাংলা দেশে সর্বশক্তিমান পুলিশ রাজ বর্ত্তমান থাকতে কি করে চোরাবাজার বা কালাবাজার চলতে পারে। আমরা দেখেছি যে বাংলা দেশের কোন ঘরের এক কোনে যদি কোন বিপ্লবী ইস্তিহার থাকে কিম্বা মাটির নিচে কোথায় ফাঁকা কার্ত্তুজ আছে সে খবর পুলিশ জানতে পারে এবং সে সব অনুসন্ধান করে বার করতে পারে অথচ পুলিশ চোরাবাজার ও চোরাকারবারীদের খবর পায় না। এই সেদিনের ঘটনা। আমি কলিকাতায় শনিবার ১লা ফেব্রুয়ারী তারিখে এসেছি। এইবার এসে বাসস্থান পরিবর্ত্তন করে অন্য স্থানে থাকব বলে ঠিক করেছিলাম। এই সংবাদ আমি কেবল Assembly Houseএই পাঠিয়েছিলাম। কিন্তু শুনলাম আমি কলিকাতায় আসবার আগেই I. B. Departmentএর লোক আমি যেখানে উঠব সেখানে গিয়ে খোঁজ করে এসেছে আমি এসেছি কি না। পুলিশ সর্বশক্তিমান ত' বটেই, অন্তর্যামীও বটে, তারা অন্তরের খবর জেনে ফেলে; আর সে পুলিশ চোরা-কারবারীদের ধরতে পারে না। জানেও না। জানবে কি করে? কারণ আমি দেখেছি গুড় control কর হয়েছে। আমার গ্রামে প্রতি সপ্তাহে হাটে হাটে ৫০।৬০।১০০৲ টাকা করে ঘুষ দেওয়া হচ্ছে এবং গুড়ও থানার বাইরে চলে যাচ্ছে। ঐ টাকাগুলি চাষীর ঘর থেকে ঘুষ হিসাবে দিতে হচ্ছে। এই হচ্ছে Defence of India Rulesএর মহিমা।

বর্ত্তমানে যে প্রস্তাব এই পরিষদ কক্ষে উপস্থিত করা হয়েছে এই প্রস্তাবের মারফতে Defence of India Rulesকে অন্য নামে বলবৎ করার চেষ্টা করা হচ্ছে। সত্য সত্যই আমরা দেখেছি যে এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী তাঁদের কাজের দ্বারা অকর্ম্মণ্যতার ও অযোগ্যতার প্রমাণ দিয়েছেন এবং সে অকর্ম্মণ্যতা ও অযোগ্যতা অসাধুতার পর্য্যায় গিয়ে উপস্থিত হয়েছে। (A VOICE FROM GOVERNMENT BENCHES: সাবাস্! সাবাস!!) আজ আবার তাঁরা নূতন করে অতিরিক্ত ক্ষমতা নিতে চাচ্ছেন। বাংলা দেশে অতিরিক্ত ক্ষমতা ত' বরাবরই আছে। Defence of India Rules আছে। অর্ডিন্যান্স চলেছে। এত অতিরিক্ত ক্ষমতা থাকা সত্ত্বেও কলিকাতার হত্যাকাণ্ড, নোয়াখালীর হত্যা, গৃহদাহ, লুণ্ঠন ইত্যাদি ও ঢাকার দাঙ্গা, হত্যা—এই সমস্ত হতে পেরেছে। তখনও অর্ডিন্যান্স ছিল, ক্ষমতার অভাবে এইগুলি হয়নি। ক্ষমতা গভর্ণমেণ্টের পুরাপুরিই আছে। তবুও এই সমস্ত দাঙ্গাহাঙ্গামা, হত্যালীলা, লুণ্ঠন প্রভৃতি বন্ধ হয় না কেন? আজ আবার তাঁরা নূতন করে এই ক্ষমতাগুলি চাচ্ছেন, এর কারণ কি? এর কারণ সম্বন্ধে অনেকেই সন্দেহ করেন যে এই ক্ষমতা সত্যসত্যই দাঙ্গা দমন বা লোকের ধন, মান ও প্রাণ রক্ষা করবার জন্য ব্যবহৃত হবে না। এর অন্য কোন গূঢ় উদ্দেশ্য আছে। (VOICE FROM GOVERNMENT PARTY: বলুন।) ব্যস্ত হবেন না এখনই জানবেন। সে উদ্দেশ্য কি? বাস্তবিকই যদি এর উদ্দেশ্য আইন ও শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষা করা হ'ত তা' হ'লে বাংলার প্রধান-মন্ত্রী, যিনি আইন ও শৃঙ্খলার মন্ত্রীও বটে, পাঞ্জাবের আইন ও শৃঙ্খলাভঙ্গকারীদের বাহবা দিতেন না, সাবাস সাবাস করতেন না। সুতরাং এটা আইন ও শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষা করার উদ্দেশ্যে নেওয়া হ'চ্ছে না। এ ছাড়া অন্য কোন উদ্দেশ্য এর নিশ্চয়ই আছে, আজ বাংলার বড়ই দুর্ভাগ্য যে বাংলার মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী বাঙ্গালীর মন্ত্রিমণ্ডল না হয়ে হয়েছে একটা সম্প্রদায় বিশেষের একটা দলের মন্ত্রিমণ্ডল। (VOICE FROM GOVERNMENT BENCHES: উড়িষ্যায়, বিহারে কি?) আজ তারা এই দলীয় দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী নিয়ে সমস্ত কিছু বিচার করছেন; তাদের চোখের সামনে এই কলিকাতা সহরের রাস্তায় তিন পয়সা চার পয়সা করে দেশলাই বিক্রী হয়। আমি Entallyতে থাকি। সেখানে চার পয়সা করে দেশলাই কিনতে হয়। একি ক্ষমতার অভাবে হচ্ছে? ক্ষমতা কি তাঁদের নেই—যার অভাবে এই সমস্ত চোরাকারবারীদের খুঁজে বের করতে পারেন না। (A VOICE FROM GOVERNMENT BENCHES: এটা Central গভর্ণমেণ্টের।) ক্ষমতার অভাবে এসব নিশ্চয়ই হচ্ছে না, এ ছাড়া এদের অন্য কিছু উদ্দেশ্য নিশ্চয়ই আছে। সম্প্রদায় বিশেষের একটা দল ছাড়া বাংলা দেশের সমস্ত লোক মনে করে যে এর ভিতর কোন একটা গূঢ় অভিসন্ধি আছে (A VOICE FROM GOVERNMENT BENCHES: যথা,——।) এর ফলে হয়ত অন্য সম্প্রদায়ের দেশকর্ম্মীদের বিরুদ্ধে এই আইন প্রয়োগ হবে। এই উদ্দেশ্য নিয়েই এই আইনের সৃষ্টি করা হয়েছে। তাই আজও বিরোধ বন্ধ হয় নাই। যতক্ষণ পর্য্যন্ত বাংলার মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর পক্ষ থেকে প্রধান-মন্ত্রী এই পরিষদ কক্ষে দাঁড়িয়ে এই ঘোষণা না করবেন যে, তাঁরা বাংলার মন্ত্রী, বাঙ্গালীর মন্ত্রী, বাঙ্গালীর স্বার্থ দেখাই তাঁদের কাজ, বাংলাকে তাঁরা বাঁচাবেন, বাঙ্গালীকে তাঁরা বাঁচাবেন—কোন সম্প্রদায় বিশেষের জন্য তাঁরা নন, তাঁরা সমস্ত বাঙ্গালীর জন্য, তাঁরা সকল সম্প্রদায়ের জন্য এবং যতক্ষণ পর্য্যন্ত তাঁরা এই ঘোষণা অনুযায়ী কাজ না করবেন ততক্ষণ পর্য্যন্ত এই বিরোধের অবসান হবে না। (THE HON'BLE MR. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: আপনারাও ঘোষণা করুন, অখণ্ড হিন্দুস্থান চাই না।) (Noise and disturbances.)

Mr. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN : On a point of order, Sir——

Mr. PROVASH CHANDRA LAHIRI : Mr. জিন্নার কথার বলতে হলে আপনারা brute majorityর জোরেই এই সমস্ত আইন পাশ করে নিতে পারেন, কিন্তু তাতে অন্যান্য সম্প্রদায়ের সম্মতি থাকবে না, বিরোধিতাই থাকবে। আমি বসবার পূর্বে প্রধান-মন্ত্রীকে আবার অনুরোধ করব যে তিনি যেন মনে করেন যে তিনি বাংলার প্রধান-মন্ত্রী, বাঙ্গালীর প্রধান-মন্ত্রী, এবং সকল সম্প্রদায়ের প্রধান-মন্ত্রী। তিনি সেইভাবে দাঁড়িয়ে বলুন এবং সেইভাবে কাজ করুন তাহ'লে সকল বিরোধেরই অবসান হবে। যতক্ষণ পর্য্যন্ত কাজের দ্বারা তা প্রমাণ না করবেন ততক্ষণ পর্য্যন্ত কিছুই হবে না। সেদিন তিনি মুসলিম লীগ President electionএর সভায় বলেছিলেন—খবরের কাগজের রিপোর্ট থেকে বলছি—Mr. Suhrawardy said, 'steps were being taken by this Government to enquire into the alleged police and military excesses on members of the majority community in Tippera and Noakhali' ত্রিপুরা এবং নোয়াখালীতে majority communityর উপর যে অত্যাচার হয়েছে সেটা সম্বন্ধে তিনি তদন্ত করবেন কিন্তু সেখানে minority communityর উপর যে অত্যাচার হয়েছে আজ পর্য্যন্ত তার কোন তদন্ত হয় নাই। (THE HON'BLE MR. H. S. SUHRAWARDY : সেটা হইতেছে।) (A VOICE FROM THE OPPOSITION BENCHES : কখন হবে?) (THE HON'BLE MR. H. S. SUHRAWARDY : সেটা শীঘ্রই হইবে।) পুনরায় আমি বলব যতদিন এই মন্ত্রী-সভা সর্ব্ব সম্প্রদায়ের বলে ঘোষণা না করবেন ততদিন পর্য্যন্ত এই বিরোধিতা চলতে থাকবে।

Mr. NISHAPATI MAJHI : মাননীয় স্পীকার মহাশয়, Bengal consumer goods control পুনরায় বলবৎ হতে চলেছে, কিন্তু যুদ্ধ পরিস্থিতির মধ্যে এবং পরে উৎপন্নের কোন ভাল ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। বিতরণেও দুর্নীতি যেমন ছিল তেমনি রয়েছে। আজ এইজন্য আমি বলতে বাধ্য যে সরকারের কঠোর ও দৃঢ় মনোভাবের জন্যই বাংলার গরীব অধিবাসীরা কণ্ট্রোল দ্রব্যের জন্য নানা কষ্ট ভোগ করছে। বাংলার গরীব মেয়েদের নারিকেল তৈল অভাবে মাথায় জট বেঁধেছে। আলো—তথা কেরোসিন তৈল ও লণ্ঠনের অভাবে মাতা মৃত সন্তানের মুখ দেখতে বঞ্চিত হয়েছে। গরীব লোকে চিনি ও সামান্য কণ্ট্রোলের দ্রব্যের অভাবে রোগীর পথ্য দানেও বঞ্চিত হয়েছে। অথচ প্রকাশ্যে ও অপ্রকাশ্যে এই সব কণ্ট্রোলের দ্রব্য, কলম, ঘড়ি, বাইসাইকেল প্রভৃতি চোরাবাজারে উচ্চমূল্যে কেনা বেচা হচ্ছে। গভর্ণমেণ্ট এইসব চোরাবাজার ধরবার জন্য কোন কঠোর ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই। বাংলার একটা ছোট জেলার কথা উল্লেখ করলে বোধ হয় সারা বাংলা দেশের অবস্থা অল্প-বিস্তর আমরা সকলেই অবগত হতে পারবো। ছয় মাসের মধ্যে একটা সরকারী নিয়ন্ত্রিত দোকানে মাত্র আধ মন নারিকেল তৈল দেওয়া হয়েছে; অথচ সেখানে রেশন কার্ড সংখ্যা ৪৫০টি, আধ মণ তেল ভাগ করে দিলে মাথাপিছু এক ছটাকও পায় না। ছয় মাস আগের অবস্থা এমন ছিল যে কখন দোকানে তেল আসে জনসাধারণ তা জানতেই পারত না। এখন প্রশ্ন হচ্ছে কেন এমন হয়? মনে হয় সরকার উৎপন্নের ব্যবস্থা করতে অসমর্থ--সরবরাহে ব্যর্থ এবং বিতরণে দুর্নীতি দেখেও নীরব। কণ্ট্রোল অফিসারগণ Sub-Registrar অফিসের মত পরস্পরের মধ্যে একটা honest ঘুষের ব্যবস্থা চালিয়ে যাচ্ছেন। এঁরা আজকাল মফঃস্বলে গেলে আর ডাকবাংলোয় উঠেন না, যেখানে সাধারণ লোক তাদের অভাব অভিযোগ জানাতে পারে এরূপ স্থানে থাকেন না, তাঁরা সেইসব চোরাকারবারী ও ঠিকাদারদের ঘরেই আশ্রীয়তা করে থাকেন। এই সব অফিসার এবং চোরা-কারবারীদের জন্য দেশে শুধু নারিকেল তৈল নয়, সরিষার তৈলের অভাবে বহু লোককে স্বাস্থ্যহীন করে তুলেছে। যাদের তেলের অভাবে ঘি কিনে খাবার সামর্থ্য আছে তাদের কিছুতে এসব ব্যাপারে অন্তর স্পর্শ করতে পারবে না। কিন্তু যারা গরীব, যারা দুই পয়সার তৈল কিনে খায় তারা দুই আনায়ও ততটা তৈল পাচ্ছে না, সুতরাং তারা তৈল খাওয়া হতে বঞ্চিত। জনসাধারণের শক্তি বিশেষতঃ শ্রমিক শ্রেণীর শক্তি এইভাবে আজ বিপন্ন হচ্ছে। আমি জানি বীরভূম জেলায় গভর্ণমেণ্ট তেলের একটা দাম বেঁধে দিয়েছিলেন—প্রতি মণ ৫২৲ টাকা, কিন্তু বিক্রী হয়েছে ৫৭৲ টাকা, আবার যখন ৫৭৲ টাকা দর বাঁধা হলো তখন বিক্রী হতে লাগল ৭২৲ টাকা; আবার ৮০৲ টাকা দর বাঁধা হলে বিক্রী হল ৮২৲—৮৭৲ টাকা দরে। কলিকাতায় তৈলের ঘাটতি পড়ছে, কয়েক হাজার মণ তৈল বীরভূম হতে আনা হোল কিন্তু চোরাবাজার সায়েস্তা করতে পারলেন না, যারা এ রকমভাবে লুটে পেটে খায় তাদেরই আরো ৯,০০০ হাজার মণ অন্যান্য জিলায় তৈল বিক্রীর বিশেষ অনুমতি দিলেন। এইতো ব্যবস্থা।

আজ এইজন্য আমরা বলতে বাধ্য যে কণ্ট্রোলে আজ জনসাধারণ অশেষ দুর্গতি ভোগ করছে সেই কণ্ট্রোলকে বলবৎ করার কোন স্বার্থকতা নাই। এইসব দুর্নীতির মূলচ্ছেদ করবার জন্য এইসব দুর্নীতির কথা জানিয়ে প্রধান-মন্ত্রী হতে আরম্ভ করে অনেকের কাছে আবেদন করেছিলাম কিন্তু কোন প্রতিকার হয় নাই——

Mr. SPEAKER : Your time is up.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting the resolutions moved on behalf of the Opposition by my honourable friend Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha I think that we ought to approach the whole question of legislation by ordinances not in a spirit of levity but realising the gravity of the import of legislation in this manner in the circumstances of present times.

Sir, every day we are receiving grave reports of varied and serious developments in different parts of Bengal. Not only the life and property of the people are being put in danger, but also it is found that this is so despite all these laws and ordinances which had existed hithertofore have remained in force on account of the war and long after the war. It is not a question of having to meet a new situation but these ordinances have proved that these powers are worthless and useless in meeting the situation. On the contrary, these powers themselves become a source of grave danger to the public.

Sir, even today we are receiving telegrams from different parts of Bengal, such, for instance, as the one I have got in my possession from Munshiganj —rice sells thirty rupees, people starving, arrange supply immediately—and so on, and so forth—the same in Manikganj and the same in different parts of Bengal.

I say, Sir, this Ordinance for Consumers Goods and other ordinances have remained in force all these years. Those ordinances were promulgated in view of war conditions. I ask, Sir, how many lives out of the 30 lakhs that perished during the year 1943 could be saved on account of the powers granted? I ask, Sir, what effective remedy has been given to the people in different parts of Bengal by virtue of such ordinances? I submit that in practical application these ordinances are not necessary. If there was any reason or justification pleaded for promulgation of these ordinances, that reason and justification was the great war and you know, Sir, that from the constitutional standpoint what views the framers of the constitution took with regard to the exercise of powers for promulgating ordinances. Sir, any number of limitations are provided constitutionally in the statute itself, but these ordinances have been an attempt to evade the process of legislation and to get things done hurriedly. I would remind this House, for instance, about one particular ordinance which has been unreservedly condemned by all sections of the House. It was the fixation by ordinance of the maximum price of jute. This, Sir, is a legislation to show what grievous abuse can be made of the power of promulgating ordinances and neither the Opposition nor the party in power could during all these years afford any remedy or relief to the cultivators and jute-growers. I ask, Sir, if with all these ordinances and powers contained therein remaining in force the Government was incapable of affording any relief to the jute-growers, how are they going to give that relief today. On the other hand, we have got to view very seriously one consideration. The Governor under the constitution was authorized in very, very special circumstances to promulgate ordinances and he was so authorized because our constitution is not a sovereign constitution but it is a piece of subordinate legislation—an offspring from the British Parliament which aimed primarily not at giving that measure of liberty to the people necessary for them, but that measure of restricted powers of legislation which would be only in consonance with the paramount interest of the British ruling power and it is from that standpoint that the power of promulgating ordinances was vested in the Governor. At the same time, the Government and the executive were expected to be vigilant, they were expected to be responsive equally to moving and changing events in the country and with that end in view they were expected to take timely action to foresee the changing circumstances and needs of the people and on that basis to take the trouble and do the labour of drafting proper bills and presenting them before the House, but only in very, very special circumstances the Governor might promulgate ordinances with a view to meet temporary emergencies.

I ask, Sir, the war which was the occasion for the promulgation of these ordinances has been over more than a year and a half ago. During all these year and a half, what has been the justification for the continuation of these ordinances? With all these ordinances in force, I say that the carnage in August took place and the price of rice soared high at the commencement of the new session of this House after the last general election took place.

Sir, Government, the Executive or the Ministry were all powerless. They have not, surely, any justification for the continuance of these ordinances. It will be a matter of shame to the good name of this House—this is a question, Sir, which is not merely a party question—it will be a shame to the good name of this House if this House regards these ordinances as anything but scraps of paper which deserve to be thrown into the waste paper basket. I emphatically give this opinion, because grievous facts full of tears and blood have justified this opinion. These ordinances have remained in force all this while. The Hon'ble Home Minister, the Hon'ble Leader of the House, did not find enough time to pause over these ordinances and to take timely action. In fact, in laying these ordinances, he told us that he means to bring forward Bills with a view to continue these ordinances in order to pay apparent homage to the powers and rights of this House; that it is not merely going to be finally legislation by reference but he is going to get an enabling piece of legislation in order to validate these ordinances and continue them in force and then to give them the shape of a properly enacted Bill. I ask this house—honourable members on this side as well as on that side—to pause for a moment and think what is the use that is being made of this House. The legislature of Bengal consisting of elected members of the people is going to be reduced to no more than a rubber stamp to be placed on the ordinances promulgated by the Governor! This House is going to be used as a rubber stamp for the Governor of Bengal! It is, Sir, a wonderful use of the elected legislature of the people that would bring only shame and disgrace to this House compared to legislatures in any other part of the world. If the present Government has got nothing else to its credit, it will have this to its credit. It is an instance of flagrant violation of the rights of the legislature and an instance of degrading the legislature into a pocket bureau of the Governor who would make use of it for the purpose of giving the legislature's stamp on his acts by using the Ministry which is servile and subservient to his whims and caprices. If the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy, Leader of the House, could come forward and tell us today that he was not responsible for the promulgation of these ordinances, he might at least have taken the credit of being the first Minister and being the Leader of the House in scrapping these ordinances which are not a product of this House.

These ordinances ask for power for the purpose of taking control of property and premises and so on and so forth. On what ground, I ask, Sir, this House is going to authorise the Government with powers of arbitrarily commandeering houses and properties?

Sir, within the limits of my time, I would only ask the House whether it would agree to the subservient position of the Governor's rubber stamp or exercise its will and throw out these ordinances and show disapproval of them.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with very great curiosity and interest we have noted the criticisms of these ordinances launched by the honourable members opposite. This is, Sir, quite contrary to our expectations. I thought that this good number of ordinances have

made provision for the protection and safety and betterment and security of the minority communities and for that these ordinances would be definitely welcomed by them, but in that respect I have been utterly disappointed. But, Sir, it is indeed a fact that for any civilised Government when the Assembly is not in session, with change of circumstances and with change of situations, there comes the necessity for ordinances. My friends opposite whatever they might say I do not contest, but look at the provinces of Bihar, Madras, Bombay and even at the Central Government which in their turns are to be translated into Ramraj which is not without ordinances and they have their own ordinances too. There is no denying of the fact that because of want of ordinance and want of press censorship the trifling affair of Noakhali was so much focussed and so much multiplied that it cost about 50,000 lives in Bihar. Thus there comes the necessity of having Special Powers ordinance by which the press can be restricted. Had this Government been well aware of its limitations and had it gone out of its way to stop the corrupt propaganda that for days and for weeks was launched against the Noakhali affair and what reaction it created all over the world and which it was even now creating, I think that many lives could have been saved in Bihar.

Now, Sir, I want to tell you one thing. There are several controversial matters which the Provincial Government cannot cope with without the assistance of ordinances. Take for instance the Bengal Consumers Goods Ordinance. It is a well known thing that cement and iron, steel and iron sheets are the exclusive business and under exclusive control of the Central Government. They deal with those traders and businessmen whose names were entered in their list I do not know when. The Provincial Government has got absolutely no control over them and in case there had not been any control or ordinance then these things would go to the black market and would not be available for the amelioration of poor and needy people of the province. For the unhealthy dual control the poor people of Bengal are suffering beyond expression. One has got to get his application recommended by a D. C. and from there he has got to come to Calcutta for a permit for a bundle of tin; again he has got to go back to the district and get bundle of tin. Without speaking of the bribery what he is required to give in Calcutta just imagine a poor man has got to pay Rs. 70 to 90 extra expenditure for a bundle of tin. Is it administration or dacoity? Will Pundit Nehru's Government give an answer? Sir, there are many aspects with regard to these ordinances. I do not deny that black market does exist; I do not deny that corruption is existing. But what I want to say is this that the Central Government is directly encouraging this black-market and profiteering by controlling steel and cement and keeping the power of distribution of steel and cement in their hands.

Now, Sir, take the Noakhali and Tippera Emergency Harvesting Ordinance. Not a single word has been said by my friends in the Opposition against it. I think that they will gratefully accept the provisions of this ordinance. For their information I may tell them that when the Bihar carnage took place, up till now that Government has not come forward with any emergency powers ordinance by which the paddy and rice of the fields that have been abandoned by the Muslims could be safely stored and kept in a safe place, so that when these people return they will get it.

One of my friends has referred to the Bengal Civic Guards and Collective Fines Continuance Ordinance, and one of my friends has said that in the name of Bengal Civic Guards we are going to maintain the Muslim League National Guard. But, Sir, it is well known that in the case of Bihar the entire police force was engaged in performing this butchery in Bihar. So my friends opposite should not speak of the Muslim League National Guard which had not yet existed nor of the Civic Guards which had not yet been brought into operation.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Sir, I beg to support the resolution moved by my honourable friend Mr. Sinha. I will, however, confine my remarks to one of the Ordinances, namely, the Bengal Jute Mills (Temporary Provisions) Ordinance.

From a perusal of this Ordinance it will be obvious to all that this Ordinance seeks to alter the hours of work fixed by the Factories Act. The Factories Act enjoins that no factory should work for more than a period covered by 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. This Ordinance extends these hours of work from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. What is the necessity of the extension of these hours of work and what are its effects and consequences upon the employees of these jute mills? These are the two points to which I would like to draw the attention of this House.

Sir, I understand that such an extension in the hours of work became a necessity during the War when some of the jute mills were requisitioned for military purposes by perhaps the Central Government. But, Sir, whatever might have been the reason for keeping those mills under military control during the War, there cannot be any reason now when the war has ceased for many months past, to allow these jute mills to be still kept under requisition. Here I feel that our Ministry have failed. It was their duty to approach the Central Government and to get the proper sanction from them for de-requisition.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: What about the Interim Government?

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: I think when the interests of Bengal are at stake, we are not interested in the Interim Government whatever be its complexion. I stand for the people of Bengal, I stand for the workers of Bengal; and I feel that if this Ministry has failed to secure the requisite permission either from the Central Government or from the Military authorities, it has not done its duty, and in fact I think that persons who have been placed in high position have got no right to come forward with the plea that they have not been able to secure the requisite permission. That shows their incompetency. Had it been in any other country, in the face of that incompetency the Ministry would have been faced with a demand for resignation.

Sir, assuming that the Central Government was approached and that the permission has not been secured, I think it was up to the Ministry to foresee it from beforehand and take this Assembly into confidence. We had waited for more than two months during the last session and such an eventuality should have been foreseen, and in fact a large number of jute mills workers who could not tolerate this system had come to this House to voice their protest against the continuance of this system. Therefore it could not be said that the Ministry could not be aware of what would be the reaction amongst the labourers. I can tell this House that there are many women who are now forced to work in these jute mills up to 11 p.m. in the night, and I think those of my friends belonging to the Treasury Benches who had opposed the extension of franchise to women on the ground that their prestige and honour have got to be saved, should now come forward and support the Opposition at least on this measure and should not allow the continuance of this measure which is forcing our women, Hindus and Muslims, to continue to work till 11 p.m. and then go back to their houses sometimes two miles off.

On these grounds, Sir, I support the motion.

Mr. J. B. WALKER: Sir, I did not intend to take any part in this debate at all until I heard my honourable friend speaking just now. I would just like to say that we would support any move to get back the jute mills and work them 48 hours a week in accordance with the Factories Act.

Mr. RUPNARAYAN ROY : মিঃ স্পীকার স্যার, আমরা এই আইন সভায় এসেছি জনসাধারণের ভোটে, জনসাধারণের মঙ্গলের জন্য ; কিন্তু পুলিশ আজ যে রকমভাবে জনসাধারণের উপর অত্যাচার সুরু করেছে তা আর প্রকাশ করা যায় না। অগ্রহায়ণ মাসে আটোয়ারী থানাতে ফুলজানী নামক এক কৃষকের বাড়ীতে পুলিশ প্রবেশ করে এবং তাকে জর অবস্থায় মারপিট করে। সেই সময় পার্শ্বের বাড়ীতে কয়েকজন স্ত্রীলোক সেই ঘটনা দেখতে সেখানে উপস্থিত হয়। পুলিশ সেই বাড়ীতে উপস্থিত হইয়া তাদের বন্দুকের কুঁদা দ্বারা আঘাত করে, নাকে মুখে ঘুষি মারে, আঙ্গিনায় বহু রক্ত পড়ে থাকতে দেখা যায়। মেয়েদের সারি করে দাঁড় করিয়ে তাদের দুই পায়ের মাঝে bayonet মারবে বলে নানা রকম কুৎসিত ভঙ্গী করে। তাদের উপর অকথ্য অত্যাচার চালায়, ঘরের বাক্স ভেঙ্গে সেই বাড়ী থেকে ৫৫০৲ টাকা পুলিশ নিয়ে যায়। বাণীশংকাইল থানার বাছোর গ্রামে পৌষ মাসে আসামী ধরতে যায় এবং যখন সেই আসামী তার ওয়ারিসএর সঙ্গে কথা বলতে যাচ্ছিল তখন তাকে গুলী করা হয়। সেই গ্রামের একজন ৫০-৬০ বৎসরের বৃদ্ধের এক ছেলেকে arrest করবার জন্য বারজন বন্দুকধারী পুলিশ সেখানে গিয়ে উপস্থিত হয়। এবং বৃদ্ধ পিতাকে জিজ্ঞাসা করে তোমার ছেলে কোথায় ? বৃদ্ধ উত্তর দেয় আমি অন্ধ আমার ছেলে কোথায় গিয়েছে আমি জানি না। তা শুনে পুলিশরা ক্ষেপে গিয়ে তার গলা এবং কোমর ধরে তাকে আছাড় দেয় এবং তার ফলে বৃদ্ধের কোমর ভেঙ্গে যায়—এটা আমি স্বচক্ষে দেখেছি। (A VOICE : আহা ! আহা !!) তারপর সেখানে পুলিশের নৃশংস অত্যাচার চলে। গভীর রাত্রে বাড়ী চড়াও করে দরজা ভেঙ্গে ঘরের মধ্যে ঘুমন্ত মেয়েদের পর্য্যন্ত মারপিট করে। মেয়েদের হাতের শাঁখা পর্য্যন্ত ভেঙ্গে দিয়েছে এবং তাদের উপর bayonet চার্জ পর্য্যন্ত করেছে। চিরিরবন্দর থানার নানিয়াচিকর গ্রামের সমিরুদ্দিন নামক এক আসামীকে গ্রেপ্তার করা হলে তার মা এবং স্ত্রী, পুলিশের পায়ে ধরে জানতে চেয়েছিল কেন তাকে ধরা হয়েছে, তখন সেই মেয়েদের ধাক্কা মেরে ফেলে দেওয়া হয় এবং সমিরুদ্দিনকে গুলী করা হয়। গুলীতে সে মরে নাই। তারপর তাকে ডাণ্ডার আঘাতে মেরে ফেলা হয়। সর্ব্বত্র এই প্রকার পুলিশ জুলুম চলেছে, সুতরাং এই পুলিশের হাতে যদি অতিরিক্ত ক্ষমতা দেওয়া হয় তাতে দাঙ্গা বন্ধ হবে না বরং দেশে অশান্তির মাত্রা বেড়ে যাবে। এই অতিরিক্ত ক্ষমতা দিবার Ordinance দাঙ্গা বন্ধ করবার জন্য নয়, পরন্তু কৃষাণ, মজুর ও ছাত্র আন্দোলনকে দমনের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রযুক্ত হবে বলে আমি মনে করি।

আমরা চাই না যে এই Ordinance পাশ হয়। আমরা এই Ordinanceএর বিরোধিতা করব এবং আমাদের উচিত এই Ordinance উঠিয়ে দিয়ে পুলিশ রাজের বিরুদ্ধে সংগ্রাম শুরু করা। যাঁহারা তাহা চাহেন না তাঁহাদের উচিত তবে আমাদের আইন সভা হতে বারোজ রাজের জয় হোক বলতে বলতে বেরিয়ে যাওয়া।

Sj. RAJANI KANTA PRAMANIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the resolutions disapproving the Bengal Ordinances moved by Mr. Bimal Chanra Sinha.

Sir, this Ministry is an unnatural one—it depends upon extraordinary circumstances and upon extraordinary legislation. Ordinances there have been in plenty in our unhappy province,—none of them designed to bring benefit to the masses, but I would assert, all of them are calculated to bring misery to an already miserable existence of the average Bengalee. We can never subscribe to this pernicious system of Ordinance Raj. It seeks to give the go-by to the ordinary process of law and makes extraordinary legislation the rule of the land. It is the Ministry which is mainly responsible for the present ills from which our province suffers; the Ministry cannot now point out the bad state of the province as a justification of their unnatural laws, and we cannot arm the Ministry with the Ordinances.

Further, Sir, the Ordinances themselves are intrinsically and inherently bad, defective and mischievous. The Bengal Civic Guards Ordinance, for instance, will give free play to bribery and corruption, by which the present regime is conspicuous. The Civic Guards Ordinance is calculated to favour the favoured community of Bengal and is particularly harmful to the other suffering community. The Bengal Drugs Control Ordinance also does not mean anything good. This Government has failed to control the market for drugs; a wide black market exists in the matter of drugs, as well as in other controlled commodities. The Special Powers Ordinance and the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance are two other examples of mischievous laws. These are also designed to hold up the progressive forces of the

country and to bolster up the reactionary groups. In fact, we cannot support any of the Ordinances as they are bad in themselves and as they will strengthen an already intolerable Ministry.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall be short because, Sir, I fear that the House has not realised under what circumstances these Ordinances came to be promulgated. The most important point that has been raised on the other side is to question the why and wherefore of these Ordinances and to criticise Government on the plea that Government proposes to govern not through the medium of the Legislature and Acts but through Ordinances. It is therefore, Sir, necessary for me to place before the House the reason why and the circumstances under which these Ordinances came to be enacted.

It will be realised that these Ordinances in a very large measure, in fact almost wholly, continue the Ordinances which were promulgated in a state of emergency by the Government of India. Under the 1935 Act the Government of India may not promulgate Ordinances except under a state of emergency in respect of such subjects that fall within the purview of the Provincial Government. As soon as the emergency finishes the Acts lapse; the Government of India passed legislation which encroached upon the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government and when they withdrew that emergency all these Ordinances would have lapsed on the 30th of September, 1946. It was necessary, therefore, to keep them alive or to keep such of those alive that were beneficial and necessary until such time as the legislature met. Nobody, Sir, desires to govern through the medium of Ordinances and surely, Sir, I would have been my foremost critic had I not felt that each one of these Ordinances had to be continued. Otherwise a state of confusion would have arisen which no subsequent act of the legislature would have been able to rectify.

I do not know, Sir, whether it is necessary in this debate to take up each Ordinance and justify it before the House. I would refer the honourable members to the Statements of Objects and Reasons that are appended to the Bills which have been framed on the basis of these Ordinances, and if the honourable members read them they will find that it was right and proper on the part of the Government to continue these Ordinances.

Now, Sir, a peculiar argument has been advanced by Mr. Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar. The fact that I have recognised the rights and privileges of this House and that I have gone to the extent of continuing these Ordinances by means of an Act for which I shall seek your support and placing these Ordinances in the form of Bills has been criticised by the honourable member that I am relegating the House to the position of a duftry, I suppose, or an organisation putting a rubber stamp on our files. On the other hand, Sir, I thought that he would have appreciated the fact that I am placing these Ordinances before the House for their criticism for amendments, for such useful amendments as they in their wisdom may choose to pass and that I have come to this House for their concurrence.

Sir, there has been much irrelevant criticism on the subjects of these Ordinances. I do not propose to reply to them except to refer just to a few of them which appear to me plausible. One honourable member, I think, it was the mover himself, deplored that in spite of the Drugs Control Ordinance he could not secure drugs in the market. I do not know what obscure drug my honourable friend was seeking, but it is a fact that owing to this Drugs Control Ordinance at present drugs are available in shops of chemists and druggists. If it was withdrawn, I am certain that the honourable member would not have been able to find even ordinary drugs, let alone obscure and patent drugs which are mostly going underground.

As regards the Consumer Goods Ordinance, this also is one of the Ordinances which were promulgated by the Government of India and are

being continued. I wish to state here, Sir, that Government are not fond of controls. And I am most anxious, (Cries of "Question" from the Opposition Benches) I wish to assure the honourable members on all sides of the House that I am most anxious to get rid of these controls. (Cries of "hear, hear" from the Government Party benches.) As a matter of fact, I went up to Delhi on this occasion for the purpose of impressing upon the Government of India the relaxation of controls as soon as possible. I do not know whether they would accept my advice, but I know, Sir, that controls have created all kinds of unsocial vices which should be abrogated and which have really demoralised the society. At the same time we have come to such a difficult pass that in the case of some, it has been found that the abolition of controls has made the position worse. (Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Just as imposition has done.) I am examining each one of the items which have been mentioned in the Ordinance and I hope, Sir, that by the time the Ordinance comes to this House in the form of a Bill, I shall be in a position to remove control over many of the consumer's goods which are now within the Ordinance. I am most anxious to do so, but it is the supply position that prevents us from taking action. Let me give examples—examples which are known to everybody. Fountain pens,—as soon as control was removed from them, they disappeared from the market. Before that at least some people got fountain pens. Take steel. As soon as the Government of India withdrew control from steel, steel disappeared from the market in such a manner that all construction had to be stopped and the Government of India at the request of the public and on account of a general outcry had to reimpose control once more. The same happened with cement, with corrugated iron sheets apart from steel and iron control, and so on. I want to say that efforts must be made to increase supplies and as long as supplies are short, some kind of control will have to be maintained for the benefit of the ordinary consumers. Well, Sir, as I have said, we are not fond of control and I want to say, not merely because any member likes it or not, it is my own personal view, and therefore, at the present moment, it is the view of the Government,—that controls are pernicious and the sooner they are removed the better. Now, I do not think it is necessary for me to say more regarding these Ordinances, but there is one point which was raised regarding jute mills and which has been answered by Mr. Walker. All of us have demanded that jute mills should be derequisitioned as soon as possible; and not only jute mills we have demanded that progressively all the buildings and premises that have been requisitioned should be sent back again under civilian control. It was necessary to double up some of the jute mills and some night shifts had to be brought into operation, and consequently these Ordinances were promulgated in order that women may be permitted, not forced, to work at night. The honourable member seems to think that whenever women work, they are forced to work. I do not know who forced them to work. They were too anxious to work. Many of them were too anxious to work. There has been not the slightest force or coercion on any single woman worker so far as I am aware. And if the honourable member will place women before me or rather before Government (laughter) who complain that they have been forced to work, I will look into each and every case. What is the use of making a statement like this on the floor of this House that women have been forced to work? What is the use of the honourable member from Dinajpur talking about excesses by Police and to say that these Acts which have been promulgated for the purpose of dealing with communal tension have been and are being promulgated for the purpose of attacking progressive elements? I am sure that the steps to which the honourable member refers in Dinajpur were not taken under the Ordinances. The Police had ample powers for this purpose. (A VOICE: It was done in Mymensingh.) It was not necessary. These powers were meant for the purpose of dealing with communal tension. If the forces of disorder got too strong I see no reason why the honourable gentlemen opposite should stand up and plead for forces of disorder. I think, Sir, that everybody must now realise

that the time has come when we have got to put a stop to disorders and hence let not the forces of disorder parade before the country in the name of progressiveness.

The motions of Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha that——

(1) this Assembly disapproves the Bengal Jute Mills (Temporary Provisions) Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. XI of 1946) as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(1) of the Government of India Act, 1935;

(2) this Assembly disapproves the Bengal Consumer Goods Control Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. VII of 1946) as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(1) of the Government of India Act, 1935;

(3) this Assembly disapproves the Noakhali and Tippera Emergency Harvesting Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. IX of 1946) as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(1) of the Government of India Act, 1935;

(4) this Assembly disapproves the Calcutta Rent Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. V of 1946) as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(1) of the Government of India Act, 1935;

(5) this Assembly disapproves the Bengal Molasses Control Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. III of 1946) as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(1) of the Government of India Act, 1935;

(6) this Assembly disapproves the Dacca Area Security Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. VIII of 1946) as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(1) of the Government of India Act, 1935;

(7) this Assembly disapproves the Bengal Drugs Control Continuance Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. IV of 1946) as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(1) of the Government of India Act, 1935;

(8) this Assembly disapproves the Noakhali and Tippera Area Security Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. X of 1946) as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(1) of the Government of India Act, 1935;

(9) this Assembly disapproves the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1947 (Bengal Ordinance No. I of 1947) as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(1) of the Government of India Act, 1935;

(10) this Assembly disapproves the Bengal Special Powers Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. VI of 1946) as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(1) of the Government of India Act, 1935;

(11) this Assembly disapproves the Bengal Special Powers (Amendment) Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. XII of 1946) as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(1) of the Government of India Act, 1935;

(12) this Assembly disapproves the Bengal Special Powers (Amendment) Ordinance, 1947 (Bengal Ordinance No. II of 1947) as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(1) of the Government of India Act, 1935;

(13) this Assembly disapproves the Bengal Civic Guards and Collective Fines Continuance Ordinance, 1946 (Bengal Ordinance No. II of 1946) as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(1) of the Government of India Act, 1935;

(14) this Assembly disapproves the Bengal Civil Pioneer Force Ordinance, 1947, (Bengal Ordinance No. III of 1947) as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88(1) of the Government of India Act, 1935;

were then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—70.

Acharjee, Mr. Shitangshu Kanta
Adhikari, Mr. Amulya Chandra
Bandopadhaya, Mr. Pramatha Nath
Banerjee, Mr. Gobindalal
Banerjee, Mr. Sibnath
Banerjee, Mr. Susil Kumar
Basu, Mr. Hemanta Kumar
Bhandari, Mr. Charu Chandra
Bhattacharjee, Mr. Ganendra Chandra
Bhattacharjee, Mr. Munindra Nath
Bhattacharyya, Mr. Shyamapada
Birsha, Mr. Bir
Bose, Mr. Satish Chandra
Brahmin, Mr. Ratanlal
Chakraborty, Mr. Benode Chandra
Chakravarty, Mr. Satish Chandra
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Mihir Lal
Chowdhury, Mr. Annada Prosad
Das, Miss Bina
Das, Mr. Brojomadhab
Das, Mr. Jogendra Chandra
Das, Mr. Radha Nath
Das Gupta, Mr. Khagendra Nath
Das Gupta, Mr. Suresh Chandra
Dass, Mr. Kanailal
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath
De, Mr. Kanai Lal
Dhar, Mr. Manoranjan
Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar
Dutt-Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu
Ganguli, Mr. Bepin Behari
Gayen, Mr. Arabinda
Ghose, Mr. A. K.
Ghose, Mr. Bimal Comar
Ghosh Chowdhury, Mr. Haran Chandra
Guha Roy, Dr. Protap Chandra
Gupta, Mr. J. C.
Gupta, Mr. Monoranjan
Haldar, Mr. Kuber Chand
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath
Lahiri, Mr. Provas Chandra
Mahanty, Mr. Charu Chandra
Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari
Majhi, Mr. Nishapati
Majumdar, Mr. Bhupati
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra
Mallick, Mr. Ashutosh
Mandal, Mr. Annadaprasad
Mandal, Mr. Bankubehari
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad
Mukherji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan
Naskar, Mr. Ardhendu Sekhar
Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra
Pramanik, Mr. Purna Chandra
Pramanik, Mr. Rajani Kanta
Ray, Mr. Kamal Krishna
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar
Roy, Mr. Ram Hari
Roy, Mr. Rup Narayan
Sarkar, Mr. Bijoy Krishna
Sarkar, Mr. Rajendra Nath
Sen, Mrs. Ashalata
Sen, Mr. Debendra Nath
Sen, Mr. Satindra Nath
Sen Gupta, Mrs. Nellie
Singha, Mr. Arun Chandra
Sinha, Mr. Bimal Chandra
Thakur Mr. Pramatha Ranjan
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

NOES—118.

Abdul Ahad, Dr.
Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Aziz Munshi, Khan Sahib
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza
Abdul Hakim Mia, Mr.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Mr. Md.
Abdul Halim, Mr. Molla Mohammad
Abdul Hamid, Mr.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Hannan, Mr.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Mannan, Mr. Fakir
Abdul Momin, Mr.
Abdullahel Baqui, Mr. Md.
Abdur Rahman, The Hon'ble Mr. A. F. M.
Abdur Rahman Khan (*alias* Nuru Mia), Mr.
Abdur Rashid, Maulana Khondkar
Abdur Rauf, Mr. Syed
Abdus Sabur Khan, Mr.
Abdus Salam, Mr. Md.
Abidur Reza Choudhury, Mr.
Abul Kalam Shamsuddin, Mr.
Abul Masud, Mr. Kazi
Abul Quasem, Mr.
Ahammad Ali, Mr. Mir
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Mr.
Ahmed Hosain, The Hon'ble Mr.
Ahmed Kabir Chowdhury, Mr.
Akbar Ali, Maulvi
Ali Ahmed Chowdhury, Mr.
Ali Ahmed Khan, Mr.
Anwara Khatun
Arif Chaudhury (Dhanu Mia), Mr. Md.
Asan Ali Muktear, Mr.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Mr.
Azizur Rahman, Mr. Syed
Badiuzzaman Muhammad Ilias, Mr.
Bafatuddin Talukdar, Mr. A. K. M.
Barman, Mr. Haran Chandra
Barury, The Hon'ble Mr. Dwarka Nath
Biswas, Mr. Bhola Nath
Biswas, Mr. Gayanath
Ebrahim Khan, Mr.
Emaduddin Ahammad, Mr.
Emery, Mr. A. J.
Eskandar Ali Khan, Mr.
Faziul Karim, Mr.
Faziul Qadir, Mr.
Fazlur Rahman (Dacca), The Hon'ble Mr.
Fazlur Rahman (Mymensingh), Mr.
Fazlur Rahman (Noakhali), Mr.
Fisk, Mr. F. W.

Gomes, Mr. D.
Habibul Huq, Mr. Syed
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Mr.
Hamiduddin Ahmed, Mr.
Hassan Ali, Mr.
Husan Ara Begum
Hutchison, Mr. E. A.
Ilias Ali Molla, Mr.
Kabir Ahmed Choudhury, Mr.
Khuda Buksh, Mr. Md.
Khurram Khan Panee, Mr.
Lutfar Rahman, Mr.
Madar Bux, Mr.
Mahammad Afzal, Mr./Syed
Mahammad Owais, Mr.
Mahammad Sayeed Mia, Mr.
Majibar Rahman, Maulvi
Maniruddin Akhand, Mr.
Martuza Reza Chowdhury, Mr.
Masihuddin Ahmed (*alias* Raja Miah) Mr.
Mazharul Haque, Mr. A. T.
Methold, Mr. J. H.
Mobarak Ali Ahmed, Mr.
Mohammad Sharif Khan, Mr.
Mozammel Hossain, Dr.
Mudassir Hossain, Mr.
Muhammad Habibullah Chaudhury, Mr.
Muhammad Idris, Maulvi
Muhammad Ishaque, Mr.
Muhammad Israil, Mr.
Muhammad Qumruddin, Mr.
Muhammad Rukonuddin, Mr.
Musharruff Hossain, Nawab, Khan Bahadur
Muzaffar Rahman Choudhury, Mr.
Nasarulla, Mr. K.
Nawajesh Ahmed, Mr.
Nawab Ali, Mr.
Nazir Hossain Khandkar, Mr.
Nurazzaman, Mr. M.B.E.
Osman Ali, Mr.
Osman Gani, Mr. Md.
Paniruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Parish, Mr. P. E. G. W.
Pentony, Mr. L. R.
Powell, Mr. J. A.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Serajal Haque, Mr. Syed
Serajuddin Ahmed, Mr. (Midnapore)
Serajuddin Ahmed, Mr. (Gaibandha)
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, The Hon'ble Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Chowdhury (*alias* Badsha Mia), Mr.
Shamsuddin Sikdar, Mr. Md.
Sharfuddin Ahmad, Mr.
Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Stokes, Mr. N.
Suhrawardy, The Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tafazzal Ali, Mr.
Taylor, Mr. A. W.
Tofazzel Hossain, Mr.
Wade, Mr. C. P. G.
Walker, Mr. J. R.
Wilks, Mr. G. C. D.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C.I.E.
Yusuf Hossain Chowdhury, Mr.

The Ayes being 70 and the Noes 118, the motions were lost.

Mr. SPEAKER: In partial modification of the programme already circulated, there will be no sitting before the 24th on which day the Bengal Ordinances Temporary Enactment Bill will be taken up and the general discussion of the budget will be taken up on the 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th February.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-44 p.m. till 4-30 p.m. on Monday, the 24th February, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 24th February, 1947, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 209 Members.

QUESTIONS

Supplementaries to Starred Question 70 (which was carried over from 18th February 1947).

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether with reference to the provisions of Chapter XIII-A of the Jail Code, Volume I, the cases of persons convicted under the Defence of India Act were actually placed before the Advisory Board for considering their premature release?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: If the honourable member gives any definite case about any person, the answer will be given.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: My question is whether with regard to answer (*a*) that Chapter XIII-A applies to the cases of prisoners convicted under the Defence of India Act, cases of such prisoners were actually placed before the Advisory Board as constituted under the provisions referred to above?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: So far as the cases of those prisoners are concerned, it applies—the whole Jail Code applies. As regards whether actually any such case was brought before the Advisory Board, I cannot say off-hand. I ask for notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is considering the desirability of taking steps for placing all such cases before the Advisory Board for consideration?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: All such cases are generally placed before the Advisory Board excepting cases under the Defence of India Rules, Rules 38(5) and 56(4) where formal consent of the Government is necessary before they are put up before the Advisory Board. As the Jail Code Rules meet the requirements, it is not considered necessary to issue special orders to regulate them, particularly when the Defence of India Rules are a temporary measure.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if, in fact, the cases of persons who were convicted under the Defence of India Act and who belonged to the Royal Indian Navy or to the Azad Hind Fouz or such other bodies were referred to the Board by the Inspector-General of Prisons and the Jail authorities?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I cannot say that without notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to how many cases of persons were actually considered by the Advisory Board during the last half year?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: That also cannot be said without notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Does the Government receive periodic reports about the number of cases of persons who are considered by the Advisory Board for premature release?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Yes.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when did the Government receive the report relating to the number of cases considered by the Advisory Board for premature release?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I would ask for notice.

Supplementaries to Starred Question 71 (which was carried over from 18th February 1947).

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have definitely decided not to keep out from Government service the members of Congress, Muslim League, Radical Socialist Party, Congress Socialist Party, Forward Bloc, Communist Party, Radical Democratic Party and other revolutionary parties?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have given that answer in (*c*).

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULAH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether during the last six months there was any case in which the Police considered some candidates to be unsuitable and those gentlemen got the appointments after the intervention of the Hon'ble Minister?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have no information

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: In view of answer (*c*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is considering it desirable not to enquire about the political past of candidates for such appointments?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have said that if any candidate has got any political past and that he was a member of the Congress or any other party, their case will be considered for the appointment.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: In view of the answer that such political past will not debar a candidate from getting an appointment under the Government, will the Government consider the desirability of not enquiring into the political past in view of the expenditure involved?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: No, Sir. I think enquiry must go on to find out the political past.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a rule that persons after joining Government service are debarred from taking part in any political activities or any political organisation?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: It is a fact, Sir.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state from when the doors of Government services were opened for members of the revolutionary parties?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Since Government came into existence.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURI: Which Government?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: This Government.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয়, অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন ক যে Question No. 71এর (g) নম্বরের যে উত্তর দেওয়া হয়েছে "yes", এটা independently, non-officially করা হয়। না তারা নিজেরা করেন?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: না, officially করা হয়।

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that in view of the answer (*b*) the enquiry by the Criminal Investigation Department is confined only to the political past or to his integrity as a whole?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: As a whole, Sir.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that persons found to be guilty of financial dishonesty have been re-appointed in other departments when they have been dismissed or discharged from one department?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have no information like that.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that certain officers of Government have been found to be taking part in political activities without any action being taken by Government?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have not got any information.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the I. B. officers are aware that Government have changed their policy and thrown open the doors of Government service to revolutionary parties?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: The Department is informed.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to answer (*f*) whether the Deputy Inspector-General in reviewing the reports of subordinate officers has any other source of report excepting from the subordinate officers?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: No. He enquires into it himself and finds out from outside also.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the source other than the subordinate officers through which the Deputy Inspector-General obtains information?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Information from the public also.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the precise machinery of Government through which the moral past is investigated?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Government has got its own machinery to get information..

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: What is that machinery?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: There are many machineries.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state some particulars of the machinery through which Government obtains information?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: There are Intelligence Branch and other branches through which Government obtain information.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Does the Government entrust the Criminal Investigation Department and the Intelligence Branch as trustees of the moral past of the people for such investigation?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: There are all sorts of machineries through which Government get information.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for which enquiries into the political past of the candidates are made?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: For security reasons.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, in view of the answer just now given that political activities are no bar to Government appointments, whether he will consider the desirability of appointing patriotic gentlemen who have suffered imprisonment through the activities of the Criminal Investigation Department and the Intelligence Branch, to Government posts?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I cannot say that.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Compensation for persons affected during August disturbances in 1942.

*72. **Mr. NISHAPATI MAJHI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the military had recourse to firing during the August Disturbances of 1942 at Bolpur, district Birbhum;

(*b*) whether in course of the firing several persons unconnected with the disturbances were shot and killed among whom were two boys named Tarapada Modak of Bolpur and Nepal Ch. Bhattacharjee of Daihat;

(*c*) if so, whether any compensation has been given to the relatives of those killed and particularly of the two boys named;

(*d*) whether movable properties were seized by the police from certain persons under Bolpur thana;

(*e*) whether Government had to pay compensation and damage for them; and

(*f*) if the answer to (*d*) and (*e*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the amount of compensation paid in each case?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) Yes. On 29th August, 1942, a detachment of the Railway Auxiliary Force while passing Bolpur railway station in a patrol train was requisitioned by the Superintendent, Government Railway Police, Howrah, when a furious mob of about 5,000 strong armed with bows, arrows, iron rods and other lethal weapons attacked the railway station, damaged official records, cut the telegraph and telephone wires and attempted to sabotage all means of communication and the requisition was made as the Police Force available at Bolpur was inadequate to cope with the situation.

The military fired 6 rounds of ball and the mob dispersed.

(*b*) Two persons named Golam Raujak and Yasin Mallik, who received slight injuries, did not appear to be members of the unlawful assembly. They were not arrested.

Tarapada Modak aged about 25 and Nepal Chandra Chatterjee (not Bhattacharjee) aged about 28, who were members of the said unlawful assembly, received injuries and were carried away by the rioters. They died in Bolpur Hospital. Information about their death was not given to the police before their death.

(*c*) There is nothing on record to show that any compensation was paid to anybody so far as this Railway Police case was concerned.

(*d*) No movable property was seized by the Bolpur police in connection with this case.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) Does not arise.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: With reference to answer (*b*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the evidence to show that these two persons were not members of the so-called unlawful assembly?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I ask for notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: In view of the Government's finding that these two persons who were injured were not members of the unlawful assembly, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps were taken to apprehend the persons responsible for shooting them down?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I ask for notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to answer contained in (*b*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what he meant by saying that information about their death was not given to the police before their death? Is contrary the Government practice sometimes?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: They were shot at and wounded and carried away by a mob to an unknown destination and therefore we could not get the information.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any information was given after their death?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: After their death we found it out.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government found out the unknown destination where these persons were carried away?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: No, Sir.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is the practice of the hospital to give information to the police before death?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: If they had been taken to the hospital we could have got the information before.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain how he could determine that the two people who were killed belonged to the unlawful assembly and the other two persons who received injuries did not belong to it?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: They were in the midst of a crowd at which the fire was aimed and the other two persons were just passers-by and were accidentally hit.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to the answer contained in the second paragraph of (*b*) that they died in Bolpur

Hospital, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the unknown destination referred to by the Hon'ble Minister meant Bolpur Hospital where these two persons were said to have died?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: They were taken there afterwards.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state where they were discovered and from where they were taken to the Bolpur Hospital?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to his answer given a little while ago that since they were carried away by the rioters and died in an unknown place no information about their death could be given, does it mean that there were other two persons who died in an unknown place?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: No, Sir. They were taken away to a place and when they died they were brought to the hospital.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Then, Sir, with reference to the answer that they died in Bolpur Hospital, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which answer is correct—whether they died in an unknown place or whether they died in Bolpur Hospital?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: They did not die in the hospital but in an unknown place.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: What is the reason for Government concealing the place where these two persons died actually?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: If I knew where they died, I would have given a straight answer.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Why then did the Hon'ble Minister make the statement that they died in Bolpur Hospital which he now retracts?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: It was a misprint.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: In view of the fact that Golam Raujak and Yasin Mallik did not appear to have belonged to the unlawful assembly, does the Government think of paying them any compensation?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have said that.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which precise person or officer actually made the investigation on the basis of which the Hon'ble Minister's answer has been given?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I ask for notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Do we understand that the Hon'ble Minister gave this answer without knowing whether it was based on dependable facts and on the report of any dependable officer?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have nothing to add.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any compensation has been given to Golam Raujak and Yasin Mallik for injuries?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I ask for notice.

Motor buses running on Calcutta streets.

*73. **Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of motor buses (stage carriages) on the Calcutta streets in February, 1945;

(*b*) the number of additional vehicles since released with route permits for the area;

(*c*) whether any enquiry has hitherto been made by the authorities if all the buses in Calcutta which have the necessary permits and are allowed to draw the usual petrol ration are being put on the roads regularly;

(*d*) whether the Government have any machinery to check it; and

(*e*) whether in case of any mechanical breakdown or other breakdown or other reasons making it impossible for any of the vehicles to be put to service, the bus owners are required to inform the proper authorities of this fact?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) Four hundred and nine.

(*b*) One hundred and sixty-nine.

(*c*) and (*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Yes, under conditions as required under rule 104 of the Bengal Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of these motor buses belong to the Muslim community?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I ask for notice.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of nationalising the transport services in Calcutta?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Government will consider that.

Declaration of some streets of Calcutta as public thoroughfares.

*74. **Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the Government have declared some streets in Calcutta as public thoroughfares so far as the removal of the prostitutes from those thoroughfares is concerned;

(*ii*) that the streets lying between the junction of Bowbazar Street and Chittaranjan Avenue and the junction of Bowbazar Street with Circular Road such as Gangadhar Babu Lane, Prem Chand Boral Street, Banerjee Lane, Harkatta Lane have been declared as public thoroughfares; and

(*iii*) that the streets mentioned at (*ii*) are thickly populated and located in a central place being surrounded by dwelling houses of peaceful citizens of Calcutta?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*)(*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state whether prostitutes are still there?

(*c*) If so, why and what steps do the Government contemplate to take for their removal?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that riots took place in the Prem Chand Boral Street at night successively on 10th, 12th, 13th and 14th July, 1946, and the inhabitants were greatly injured thereby?

(*e*) If the answer to (*a*)(*ii*) is in the negative, do the Government contemplate to declare those thoroughfares as public ones?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) Yes, not public thoroughfares, but main thoroughfares under section 6(*1*)(*c*) of Bengal Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1933.

(*b*) and (*c*) *Bowbazar Street.*—Two brothels were recently found functioning on Bowbazar Street in the Bowbazar police-station area.

The occupants and the persons in charge have been prosecuted under section 6(*5*) of Immoral Traffic Act. The cases are pending in court.

Gangadhar Babu Lane.—No brothels are to be found in this place now.

Prem Chand Boral Street, Banerjee Lane and Harkatta Lane.—Some houses in this area were recently found to have been reoccupied by prostitutes but at the time of inspection by the police no prostitution was noticed being carried on.

Seven days' discontinuance notices under section 6 of the Immoral Traffic Act have been served on the new occupants to discontinue using the places as brothels. If found disobeying the order, they will be prosecuted under the Act.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative.

(*e*) Does not arise.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Arising out of (*b*) and (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of the occupants and the persons in charge who have been prosecuted under section 6(5)?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state for the information of the honourable member who put this question where these prostitutes have been rehabilitated now?

(No reply.)

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: With reference to answer (*b*) and (*c*) that at the time of inspection by the police no prostitution was noticed being carried on, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how this information was gathered?

(No reply.)

Death from starvation and measures to prevent it.

***75. Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether one Sheikh Baharali of village Harigati, Union Board Kailati, police-station Kalmakanda, district Mymensingh, died of starvation during the first part of June last;

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that the report of the death of starvation of the said Sheikh Baharali was submitted in writing to the Subdivisional Officer, Netrokona, by his son, Sheikh Danis; and

(*iii*) whether there was any inquiry held by local authority?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the findings of that inquiry?

(*c*) If after due inquiry it was found that the man died of starvation, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the steps the Government have taken to prevent further deaths by starvation?

MINISTER in charge of CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Cofran): (*a*)(*i*) Baharali of Harigati died on the 9th June, 1946. He was an old man and was ailing for some time. The family was in straitened circumstances and it appears that the family was short of food for a few days before Baharali's death. Death appears to have been due to infirmity and illness aggravated by shortage of food.

(*ii*) No.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*b*) The results of the inquiry are as already stated.

(*c*) The union in which the deceased lived was distressed and relief loans were distributed twice in the union before his death the second time only ten or eleven days before the death of Baharali. Government had also made an initial grant to the Union Poor Fund and the President of Union Board had also raised money for the Fund and distributed it for relief. Neither Baharali nor his people however approached the relief officer or the union Board for relief and the case of the family was not brought to the notice of relief officers. Government have introduced the distribution of rice under modified rationing in deficit areas as also distribution of foodgrains from cheap grain shops and by way of free doles. Other relief measures such as distribution of loan and gratuitous relief and test relief works have also been initiated in distressed areas on a large scale. The Department of Relief has issued orders for the setting up of a network of skeleton relief units in the Province with a view to organise effectively an intelligence service of rural economic conditions and to undertake immediate relief work, when and where necessary. The smallest of these units under the charge of an officer is part of a thana not exceeding six unions. It is, however, impossible for Government to have a relief staff large enough to undertake house-to-house inquiries and isolated cases of distress are liable to miss relief unless they are brought before the relief officers by the local people themselves.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: With reference to answer (*b*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on whose information the enquiry was made?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: That information is not available.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who was the officer who enquired into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Relief Officer.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us what was the age of Baharali?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: He was about 70 years old.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the Circle Officer of the Kalmakanda area enquired into the matter and submitted a report that the death was due to starvation?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I have no such information.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the Subdivisional Officer, Netrakona, in a demi-official letter threatened the Circle Officer of Kalmakanda with suspension if he did not withdraw that report?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I have no such information.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: With reference to answer (*a*) (*ii*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that Maulvi Shaw Nawaj, a member of the Union Board, accompanied Sheikh Danis, son of the deceased, when the matter was brought to the notice of the Subdivisional Officer, Netrakona, in writing?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: I have no such information.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the report was not forwarded to the Government with the intention of concealing the fact from Government that famine conditions prevailed in that area?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: I have no such information.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the ailment he was suffering from?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: The nature of the illness has not been stated here.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why Baharali did not approach the Relief Officer though he was without food for days?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: It was for him to say.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us for what period he was suffering from the alleged diseases?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: It is not possible for me to give that information.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the information just now furnished by Mr. Amulya Chandra Adhikari does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to initiate a sitting enquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: There has already been an enquiry into the matter.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please say if the Relief Officer of a locality is expected to see that no one dies of starvation?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: Yes, as far as possible.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: If that is so, when a man had died of starvation, how can the Government depend upon the report of that Relief Officer through whose fault he died?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: I think the question does not require any reply.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us if these reports which Mr. Amulya Chandra Adhikari has mentioned were before the enquiring officer who held the enquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: It is for him to say.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to his answer that "death appears to have been due to infirmity and illness ....." etc., will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether report about illness was received from any doctor?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: No.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state from whom the report about illness was received?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: From the Relief Officer.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Relief Officer gave his report after the man had died and was interred or before his death?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: After the man had died.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is satisfied with the report on which the answers are based?

The Hon"ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Certainly, I am satisfied.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that distribution of rice under the modified rationing scheme in different areas is irregular and very rare?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I received no such report.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of intimating to all Relief Officers that they will be held *prima facie* responsible for death from starvation within their areas?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: That is not within my province. However I shall see to it.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the amount of loan given by way of relief to Baharali 11 days before his death?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I want notice.

Total requirement of foodstuffs and estimated deficit.

*76. **Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total requirement of (*i*) rice, (*ii*) wheat and (*iii*) other foodstuffs in Bengal in the year 1946;

(*b*) the total stocks of each of the above foodstuffs held by the Government of Bengal on the 15th June, 1946;

(*c*) the total quantities procured from the 1st January, 1946, to the 15th June, 1946;

(*d*) the total quantities despatched to different districts during the same period;

(*e*) the estimated deficit with regard to each of the above foodstuffs; and

(*f*) the methods the Government propose to adopt for meeting such deficits?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: (*a*)(*i*) Rice—10½ million tons inclusive of local production.

(*ii*) Wheat—300,000 tons exclusive of local production.

(*iii*) Gram and pulses—182,000 tons exclusive of local production.

(*b*) Rice—259,900 tons. Wheat—27,850 tons. Pulses and gram are not handled on Government account.

(*c*) Procured in Bengal—

Rice—7,973,381 maunds = 292,923·25 tons.

Paddy—2,831,274 maunds = 104,014·47 tons.

Procured from outside Bengal—

Rice—24,000 tons.

Wheat—82,598 tons.

Flour—750 tons.

Pulses and gram—Accurate figures are not available.

(*d*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*e*) Rice—1:13 million tons. Wheat—300,000 tons. Pulses and gram—182,000 tons.

(*f*) By effecting economies in consumption; scales of supplies have been lowered in overall rationed towns and non-rationed areas.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (d) of starred question No. 76.

DESPATCHES OF FOODGRAINS AND SALT TO DIFFERENT DISTRICTS DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1ST JANUARY TO 15TH JUNE, 1946.

[Figures are in maunds.]

Districts.	Rice. I	Paddy. II	Wheat. III	Wheat products. IV
Bakarganj	..	.	..	11,014
Bankura	..	12,220	..	17,446
Birbhum	..	..	50	9,124
Bogra	..	..	..	2,400
Burdwan	302,443	1,895	..	125,814
Calcutta	5,119,754	1,637,131	..	..
Chittagong	66,489	4,990	..	43,000
Dacca	433,055	188,175	50	77,850
Darjeeling	418,169	12,889	..	69,027
Dinajpur	..	..	..	7,150
Faridpur	..	..	..	8,750
Hooghly	329,044	128,608	182	19,612
Howrah	113,361	52,987	..	..
Jalpaiguri	177,728	86,545	..	21,915
Jessore	42,229	2,374	..	8,952
Khulna	598,757	189,153	..	8,504
Malda	..	..	..	3,930
Midnapore	..	2,334	..	28,627
Murshidabad ..	12,797	..	..	14,844
Mymensingh ..	3,948	196,676	..	12,701
Nadia	594,136	185,942	50	16,665
Noakhali	94,121	68,545	..	9,310
Pabna	194,318	61,509	..	8,900
Rajshahi	..	..	..	9,150
Rangpur	6,720	..	..	10,178
Tippera	248,488	142,846	..	13,850
24-Parganas ..	286,086	621,993	..	10,320
Total ..	9,041,643	3,591,812	332	571,033

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pelased to state the total quantities of foodstuffs distributed to different districts from June 1946 to 31st December 1946?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I want notice.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what does he exactly mean by the term "effecting economies in consumption" and what is the amount saved on the measures of economies that have been adopted?

The Hon''ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: "By effecting economies in consumption" you will eat only as much as you can.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: What is the total amount saved by eating as much as we need?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: It is not possible for me to say that.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: What is the amount saved as a result of lowering of the scales of supplies in overall rationed towns and non-rationed areas?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I want notice.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: What is the total quantity procured in Bengal and procured from outside Bengal through outsiders who have recently come to Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I want notice.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the methods proposed to be adopted by Government for meeting deficit include increased Government procurement?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: It is not possible for me to say whether it will increase procurement. But certainly it will be possible for us to meet the deficit.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Sir, I do not think the Hon'ble Minister has understood my question. Will he be pleased to state if the methods of meeting deficits include increased Government procurement of rice and paddy?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I cannot follow the question.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government intend to procure more paddy and rice in order to meet the deficits?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Certainly.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how Government propose to increase their procurement of paddy and rice?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: There are certain surplus districts and we have introduced direct procurement policy at present. We have put cordon round these districts and thereby we are securing procurement.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Is it a fact that direct procurement has not succeeded?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Certainly not.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the machinery for procurement of foodstuffs from outside Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: Basic quota is fixed by the Government of India and we employ our agents for procuring that quota from the province wherefrom we have to bring it.

Survey Committees for selection of sites for primary schools in Jessore district.

*77. **Mr. BEJOY KRISHNA SARKAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of the Survey Committees formed to select sites of the proposed free primary school in the district of Jessore; and

(*b*) the number of the Scheduled Caste members therein?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain): (*a*) Twenty-three Survey Committees, one for each thana, have been formed to select sites of the proposed free primary schools in the district of Jessore.

(*b*) There are 14 Scheduled Caste members on the committees.

Mr. BEJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of Union Survey Committees that have been formed in the district of Jessore?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE: One Committee has been formed for each thana.

Mr. BEJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state precisely how many such Committees have been set up in the district of Jessore?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE: I want notice.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of members of all the twenty-three Survey Committees in the district of Jessore?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE: I have already said that the number of members is fixed by the School Board. One Committee has been formed in each thana and the number of members is fixed by School Board according to necessity. At present the number is not available.

Admission of students in Presidency College, Calcutta.

*78. **Mr. FAZLUL QADIR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many candidates who passed I.Sc. with letters in the First Division or simply passed in the First Division or Second Division have been refused admission in the Presidency College this year; and

(*b*) whether percentage fixed by Government for admission of Muslim candidates has been given effect to?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain). (*a*) Out of 483 candidates passing I.Sc. either in the First or Second Division who were applicants for admission into the 3rd year Science Class of this College, as many as 270 were refused

admission. Out of 270 candidates 166 were First Division candidates and 104 Second Division candidates. It is not possible to furnish the exact number of First Division candidates with letters who were refused admission.

The remaining 213 candidates were selected for admission, of whom 165 actually took their admission. The number of Muslim students admitted was 42.

(*b*) Reservation of seats for Muslim students in the Presidency College is fixed at a minimum of 25 per cent. for the present provided the candidates conform to the standard of educational fitness prescribed for the purpose.

The question of revision of this ratio is under consideration.

Mr. FAZLUL QADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many applications from Muslim candidates who passed in the First Division were refused?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE: The figure is not available.

Mr. FAZLUL QADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the number 42 is the minimum of the total number admitted?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE: I think the honourable member wants to know if the 25 per cent. ratio has been considered as minimum or maximum. Unfortunately the authorities of the College considered 25 per cent. as the maximum.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the standard of educational fitness that has been prescribed for the above purpose, namely, admission into the Institution, in the case of Muslim boys?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE: Generally First Division with letters are given preference and then First Division, and if still seats are available Second Division.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any admission test is held for admission in that College?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE: No.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of petitions from Muslim candidates that were refused admission?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE: I have said before that the figure is not available.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the question of revision of the ratio will be completed?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE: It is hoped that it will be decided before the time for next year's admission comes.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the minimum standard of educational fitness in the case of Muslim boys is something different from those prescribed for students of other communities, and what is the necessity for making reservations at all?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE: The number of non-Muslim candidates are generally found to be very large and therefore unless there is some reservation Muslim candidates with the same qualification sometimes do not get admission.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, the first part of my question has not been answered.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please split up your question?

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the standard of educational fitness prescribed for Muslim boys is something different from the standard prescribed for boys of the other communities?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE: No.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: If not, what is the necessity of reservation?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE: It is necessary on account of the very great rush of candidates for admission.

Mr. FAZLUL QADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when Government is going to modify the rule of reservation of seats for Muslim boys?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE: That question is under consideration.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is the policy of Government to discriminate between students as regards admission in general institutions on grounds of communities and not put efficiency as the only test?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE: Certainly it is not the policy of Government to put any discrimination. Efficiency is generally the first test, but then Government must see that eligible students of different communities are not refused admission.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the percentage of 25 was fixed, and if it is the same in all educational institutions?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE: This was fixed sometime in 1912 and that is continuing even now, and where there has been no revision the same percentage continues.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Management of Livestock Section under Director of Agriculture.

26. Dr. ABDUL AHAD: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Livestock Department has been placed under the management of the Agriculture Director; if so, what are his special qualifications to hold the post?

(*b*) Does the Hon'ble Minister contemplate to place this department in the hands of the Veterinary Director?

(*c*) If not, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the Veterinary Assistants of the mufassal do not get a chance for betterment of their knowledge in the Bengal Veterinary College as House Surgeons, Laboratory Assistants, Librarians, Demonstrators, Assistant Lecturers, etc., every year or alternate years specially those who have meritorious record in the College career; and

(*ii*) that the private veterinary practitioners do not get a chance in the Veterinary College or in the department on a contract basis when they gather experience at their own expense and prove their capacity amidst the public?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Hossain): (*a*) The Livestock Section has always been under the administrative control of the Director of Agriculture, Bengal. The present Director who is an I.C.S. officer is assisted in the administration of the Livestock Section by a highly qualified Assistant Director of Agriculture (Livestock).

(*b*) Not yet.

(*c*) Under present conditions in the Province the Directorate of Veterinary Medicine has not sufficient staff to deal with diseases amongst cattle and should not therefore be burdened with the additional responsibilities of live-stock development.

(*d*)(*i*) There is no system of bringing Veterinary Assistant Surgeons to the College by rotation for employment as House Surgeons or in the other capacities mentioned. Veterinary Assistant Surgeons are, however, given a refresher course of post-graduate training according to a prescribed schedule. Posts in the College are interchangeable with posts of comparable rank in the districts according to the exigencies of public service.

(*ii*) Higher posts in the Veterinary Directorate and in the College have to be filled on the advice of the Public Service Commission, Bengal, and no question therefore arises of Government making direct appointments on contract. Private practitioners are not precluded from applying for these posts and taking their chance with other candidates when the posts are advertised.

Shifting of Criminal Courts of Sadar subdivision, Tippera.

27. Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Chief Minister's (General Administration) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that Subdivisional Criminal Courts of the Sadar subdivision in the district of Tippera which were shifted to Chandina, Laksham, had been reshifted to Comilla; and

(*ii*) that those Courts had not been shifted to their former Criminal Court premises but to the house of the Nawab Bahadur and to that of late Nabadwip Ch. Deb Barman?

(*b*) Is the Government aware that the litigant public as well as the lawyers had been suffering on account of shifting of Courts to different places instead of shifting to their former buildings?

(*c*) Do the Government consider the desirability of immediately making arrangement for re-shifting the Courts to their former premises?

MINISTER in charge of the CHIEF MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*)(*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) The Courts could not be shifted to the former buildings as the latter were under requisition. Now that these buildings have been released, the Courts are back to their former premises.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

Alleged proscription of book entitled "Bidrohi Rabindranath".

28. Mr. RAMHARI ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that the book entitled "Bidrohi Rabindranath" by Shri Bejoylal Chattopadhaya is still proscribed by the Government;

(*ii*) whether it was first proscribed in 1932;

(*iii*) whether it is a fact that the Government in 1942 and 1943 was prepared to lift the ban on condition that certain portions of the book should be revised; and

(*iv*) whether it is a fact that the book was actually revised and the revised copy was sent to the Government?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the facts that still stand in the way of lifting the ban on the book and whether he intends to take immediate step in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*)(*i*) No. Order has issued permitting republication of the book after omission of objectionable portions.

(*ii*) and (*iv*) Yes.

(*iii*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. RAMHARI ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the order has been communicated to the author of the book?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Yes, Sir.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the nature of the offensive portions that led to the banning of those portions.

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. RAMHARI ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are those objectionable portions after the omission of which the order of publication has been granted?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Sir, it is a thick book in Bengali. I want notice.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to read out the portions that were found objectionable?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Did the Hon'ble Minister satisfy himself by reading the portion in question whether it was really objectionable or not?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: The Hon'ble Minister was satisfied after reading it.

Subdivisional Controller of Civil Supplies, Goalundo.

29. Mr. AHMED ALI MIRDHA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the present Subdivisional Controller of Civil Supplies, Goalundo (Rajbari), attends the office never before 2 p.m. and generally between the hours of 4 and 5 p.m.; and

(*ii*) that he does not understand Bengali?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government propose to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Cofran): (*a*)(*i*) When at Headquarter the Subdivisional Controller of Civil Supplies attends office between 11 a.m. and 12 noon. Being a touring officer he has to go out on tour occasionally. On days when he goes out on tour in the morning he attends office in the afternoon.

(*ii*) It is not a fact that he does not understand Bengali.

(*b*) In view of the facts stated, no action is called for except that he is being asked to attend office punctually when at Headquarter.

Theft of sugar from Government godowns in Calcutta.

30. Mr. AHMED ALI MIRDHA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that bags of sugar were stolen from the Food Rationing Godown in the 11/C, Canal Circular Road, Calcutta, between the 5th and 8th August, 1946?

(*b*) If so, whether the Hon'ble Minister is considering the desirability of—

(*i*) instituting an enquiry into the matter; and

(*ii*) taking steps against the recurrence of such thefts?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: (*a*) There is no godown at 11/C, Canal Circular Road. On the 1st May, 1946, the godown bearing that number was renumbered as 11/H (West), Canal Circular Road.

No incident of theft, shortage or discrepancy has been reported from this godown during the period mentioned. The physical stocks of the godown at 11/H (West), Canal Circular Road, were checked by the Inspecting staff on 7th August, 1946, and also on 8th August, 1946, and do not reveal any discrepancy.

(*b*) Does not arise.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Observance of communal ratio in the matter of promotion in Police ranks.

*79. **Mr. SERAJUDDIN AHAMMAD:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether communal ratio is being observed in promoting Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors of Police to the rank of Inspectors and Deputy Superintendents of Police, respectively; and

(*b*) if so, whether any supersession has been made since the introduction of the Communal Ratio Rules?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (On behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) No, because communal ratio does not apply to promotion to higher ranks.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the communal ratio rule applies in the case of appointment to police?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Sir, it does.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is roughly the communal proportion in the rank of Calcutta Police this time?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what policy is being followed by Government in case of promotion?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: In case of promotion efficiency is there and seniority.

Requisition of military help during recent riots in Calcutta.

***80. Mr. NARENDRA SINGH SINGHI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state the reason—

(*a*) why in the recent communal riots at Calcutta, the Government did not call in the help of the Military before midnight of August 17th, although the trouble started nearly 36 hours earlier, on August 16, and the police failed entirely to control the situation from the very beginning; and

(*b*) why in spite of the mass butchery, house-breaking and plunder in the Tirettabazar area, the police failed to arrive there not only on the 16th but also on the 17th August though the police headquarters at Lalbazar are only two minutes' walk from the place of occurrence?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): These matters have been referred to an Enquiry Commission appointed by the Government of Bengal and Government do not consider that it would be proper to anticipate the findings of the Commission before its report is submitted.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Is it the policy of Government not to come to any decision regarding any matter concerning the riots while the Commission is in progress?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I disallow the question.

Gun licences in Calcutta and Bengal.

***81. Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many gun licences are held by Hindus and how many by Muslims in (*i*) Calcutta and (*ii*) Bengal; and

(*b*) how many fresh gun licences were issued during the month of August, 1946, to (*i*) Hindus and (*ii*) Muslims in (1) Calcutta and (2) Bengal?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): Statements I and II are laid on the Table.

Statements referred to in reply to starred question No. 81.

STATEMENT I.

Statement showing the gun licences held by Hindus and Muslims in Calcutta and Bengal outside Calcutta.

	Hindus.	Muslims.	Total.
Calcutta ..	2,996	709	3,705
Bengal outside Calcutta	30,162	20,528	50,690

STATEMENT II.

Statement showing gun licences issued during the month of August, 1946, in Calcutta and Bengal outside Calcutta.

	Hindus.	Muslims.	Total.
Calcutta ..	7	8	15
Bengal outside Calcutta	163	173	336

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to how many applications for gun licences were received from Hindus and Muslims?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the criteria which the Government took into consideration while granting new licences?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Sir, it is left to the officer concerned to give licences to persons whom he thinks respectable and who can take the responsibility for the weapon that is issued.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who is the officer who is in charge of issuing these licences?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: In Calcutta the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of Arms Department.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Hon'ble Ministers have not interfered into any case?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: No, Sir, we have not.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is not a fact that the Hon'ble Chief Minister on his own initiative granted licences to certain Muslim gentlemen in Howrah?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: The question refers to Calcutta, not Howrah.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am afraid that there may be some misunderstanding after that answer there. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has not issued licences on his own initiative either in Calcutta or in Howrah or in any part of Bengal.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Chief Minister be pleased to state as to whether he recommended any such cases to the Arms Commissioner?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, Sir.

Whereabouts of Debnath Das of Kirnahar, Birbhum.

*82. **Mr. NISHAPATI MAJHI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether he has any information about the whereabouts of Debnath Das of Kirnahar, district Birbhum, who was in Japan during the war employed in the office of N. K. Quader and Co., Osaka;

(*ii*) whether he was a member of the Azad Hind Government; and

(*iii*) whether he has been removed to the Red Fort of Delhi or is he still

(*b*) If the informatian asked for is not readily available in Bengal, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of approaching the Government of India for the required information?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) and (*b*) Reference has been made to the Government of India to ascertain whether they have any information regarding this person which they are prepared to disclose.

Cattle epidemic in Jessore.

***83. Dr. BHOLANATH BISWAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture (Veterinary) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a very large number of cattle died and are still dying as a result of serious epidemics since January, 1946, in the district of Jessore specially in Kaliganj, Kotchandpur and Monirampur police-stations?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what preventive and curative measures have been adopted?

(*c*) Is it a fact that during the time when the outbreak in Jhenidah subdivision was at its climax, i.e., in March and April, 1946, the Veterinary Surgeon of Jhenidah was absent on leave, no substitute was sent and the epidemic was unattended?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any vaccinator in the district of Jessore for vaccination of cattle?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the negative, do the Government consider the desirability of appointing vaccinators to cope with the epidemic?

(*f*) Do the Government consider the desirability of storing necessary serums and medicines at Jessore in view of the fact that the epidemic generally breaks out in the district?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Hossain): (*a*) Haemorrhagic Septicaemia of cattle broke out in an epidemic form in certain parts of Jessore district and resulted in a number of deaths. The disease is now under control.

(*b*) A large number of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and vaccinators were sent to the affected areas to deal with the epidemics. The mass inoculation scheme which is now in operation should serve to check the outbreak of cattle epidemics in the district.

(*c*) No. The Veterinary Assistant in charge of the subdivision was on leave for a short period in May. Several men from other districts were deputed to control outbreaks during May in this particular subdivision.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) A large number of vaccinators have been kept in a pool in Calcutta and are drafted to districts in accordance with needs.

(*f*) No difficulty has ever been experienced in arranging supplies of sera and vaccines to any part of the Province. A separate centre for Jessore seems unnecessary.

Removal of Urdu scripts from station buildings and station nameboards.

***84. Mr. HASSAN ALI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Works and Buildings Department aware that the names of the railway stations and other matters were written both in Bengali and Urdu scripts in the station buildings and platform signboards?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that recently writings in "Urdu" scripts have all been erased out?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what are the reasons therefor; and

(*ii*) under whose order such erasements have taken place?

Dr. BHOLANATH BISWAS (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Dwarkanath Barori): (*a*) Yes, on East Indian and Bengal Nagpur Railways. As regards Bengal Assam Railway, it is reported that as a security measure during the war, station names were obliterated from station buildings and station nameboards removed. Recently, while replacing station nameboards at stations in the railway district of Katihar, Urdu script was used in addition to English and Bengali by mistake. This was a departure from the old standard practice. As soon as detected the mistake was rectified by the railway.

(*b*) No such orders have been issued by the Bengal Nagpur and East Indian Railway authorities.

(*c*) *Vide* replies to questions (*a*) and (*b*) above.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to whether so far as the East Indian and Bengal-Nagpur Railways are concerned, the Government have no say in the matter?

Dr. BHOLANATH BISWAS: I want notice.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who was responsible for the mistake committed?

Dr. BHOLANATH BISWAS: The Railway authorities.

Suffering of steamer passengers of Khulna-Madaripur steamer service.

***85. Dr. PRATAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Transport) Department aware—

(*i*) that Khulna-Madaripur Bil route steamer service is the main communication line existing to link up Madaripur to the outer world;

(*ii*) that huge number of passengers from Khulna *ghat* travel everyday;

(*iii*) that there were two steamers before war;

(*iv*) that in the war time only one small steamer was allotted to run;

(*v*) that after war the same arrangement is being maintained;

(*vi*) that a small crew steamer is running with a very small accommodation;

(*vii*) that the huge number of passengers are running in the only one small steamer;

(*viii*) that even standing space is not available;

(*ix*) that many ladies and infants fainted many times; and

(*x*) that no adequate supply of foodstuff is available in the steamer?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what step has been taken or will be taken in immediate future to allay the distress of the Bil route passengers?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*)(*i*) Madaripur is connected with other districts by the following services:—

(1) Madaripur-Tarpasa service.

(2) Madaripur-Barisal service.

(3) Madaripur-Khulna service *via* Bil route.

(*ii*) Yes. The average daily number of passengers may be between 600 to 700.

(*iii*) and (*iv*) Yes.

(*v*) to (*vii*) Only one vessel is running now due to shortage as a result of requisitioning of vessels for war purposes. The vessel is, however, bigger in size and carries more passengers than that carried by two vessels before the war. The licensed capacity of the vessel is not exceeded.

(*viii*) This is not correct as the licensed capacity of a vessel is not allowed to be exceeded.

(*ix*) No such cases have come to the notice of Government.

(*x*) Vendors are maintained on all the steamers but due to general food shortage varieties of food catered for are not as numerous as in pre-war days. There are no complaints of shortage of foodstuffs.

(*b*) The service will be restored to the pre-war level as soon as the Company's vessels are derequisitioned by the military.

Dr. PRATAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: Is it known to the Minister in charge that only one steamer, crew steamer named "Seuli," is running between Madaripur and Khulna?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have said that owing to the shortage of steamers there is only one steamer.

Dr. PRATAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: About the question where the Minister has stated that the steamer is bigger in size, I say a small steamer is running there. Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of it?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Information with Government is that it is a bigger size steamer than the pre-war one.

Dr. PRATAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: The Hon'ble Minister has stated that the vessel's capacity has not exceeded. I say that the vessel's capacity is exceeded to such an extent that passengers of many intermediate stations are not taken.

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Information with Government is that it is not exceeded.

Dr. PRATAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: The Hon'ble Minister says that Government did not get information that ladies and infants fainted. Is it not a fact that in Gopalganj hospital some ladies were admitted?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Government is not aware of the fact.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: In view of the answer given by the Hon'ble Minister, will he be pleased to make an enquiry into the matter as alleged by Dr. Guha Roy?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I shall certainly look into the matter.

Dr. PRATAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: With reference to answer (*x*) where the Hon'ble Minister has stated "vendors are maintained on all the steamers but due to general food shortage varieties of food, etc.", is the Hon'ble Minister aware that vendors cannot take fruits for more than 30 to 40 persons' consumption?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Vendors can take as much as they like.

Mr. MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Arising out of answer (*b*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government are endeavouring to de-requisition the vessels?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Vessels, I think, will come very shortly.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question time over.

Adjournment Motion.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I move an adjournment of which I have given notice and that is in connection with indiscriminate shooting in Balurghat? I have got your consent.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is there any objection?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Yes, Sir. Is it a matter of urgent public importance? On what date the occurrence took place?

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am told, Sir, that the shooting or whatever it was took place some considerable time ago and there have been sittings of the House since then.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: The occurrence took place on the 20th February last.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The position is this. I do not think, Sir, that I shall be able to deal adequately with any adjournment motion that may be moved on the subject, as we have not yet got complete information on the matter. We have sent wires and have asked for information. I propose, Sir, that since the matter is somewhat serious,—and not only this matter, but we feel that there is a general wave of lawlessness in the Province which will have to be adequately dealt with in order to safeguard the lives and property of the people of the Province,—I should like to make a statement on the floor of this House. I hope that the motion will not be moved. On Thursday next I propose to place a statement on the floor of this House upon such materials which I may have at my disposal by that time.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, in view of what has been stated by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister, I would not like to press my motion.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given notice of an adjournment motion on the murder of villagers in Khanpur by the Police and consent has been given to that motion. I should like to press my motion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is there any objection?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Yes, Sir, there is.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those members who are in favour of this motion kindly rise in their seats.

(Only two members rose in their seats.)

Leave refused.

(The House was then adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After Adjourment.)

Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members are aware that owing to the death of Mr. S. K. Sawday, a casual vacancy has occurred in the Committee on Public Accounts. Now under sub-rule (3) of rule 112 of the Bengal

Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules the Hon'ble Speaker has nominated Mr. J. R. Methold to fill the casual vacancy caused by the death of Mr. S. K. Sawday.

GOVERNMENT BILL.

The Bengal Ordinances Temporary Enactment Bill, 1947.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sinha, you move your motion.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I beg to move by way of amendment that the Bengal Ordinances Temporary Enactment Bill, 1947, be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st December, 1947.

Sir, a few days ago we had a discussion about these Ordinances while resolutions were moved expressing disapproval of these Ordinances. Now, Sir, these Ordinances have again been placed before the House as the Bengal Ordinances Temporary Provision Bill, and I understand that these Ordinances will further come before this House as Bills to be placed on the Statute Book on a permanent footing. The Ministry has not only issued Ordinances in the past, but what they want is that these Ordinances should not only remain as a temporary measure but they should be on a permanent footing and they should in future be in the ordinary scheme of things so far as the administration of Bengal is concerned. I have no hesitation to say that this Ministry has not only ruined our past, destroyed our present, but is intent upon mortgaging our future. That is the intention of the Ministry. It has arranged for our eternal damnation and for the replacement of the ordinary law and order by an Ordinance Raj about which we spoke in unequivocal condemnation a few days ago. That is, Sir, the way in which Bengal is going to be killed. We, on this side of the House, have nothing but the strongest condemnation for this sort of rule. We do not deny that it becomes necessary for Government to assume power to suppress lawlessness and disorder, but, Sir, our strongest criticism against this sort of Ordinances is that the present Ministry has been using these powers not for the good of the country and the people, but for the encouragement of lawlessness and disorder if these are perpetrated by a section of the people and for pouncing upon innocent people if they happen to belong to a particular community or to a section of the people who profess a political creed that is different from that adopted or professed by the party in power. It is, Sir, to be remembered that only a few days ago the police pounced upon innocent students who happened to stage a demonstration in support of the freedom movement that is going on in one part of Asia. But I can testify personally to the fact that the marching of Muslim National Guards openly in the streets of Calcutta in military uniform was sanctioned or at least connived at by the police. This is the object, Sir, the sum total of benefit with which these Ordinances have been able to confer. In spite of the Special Powers Ordinance which prohibits processions and in spite of the section 144 in Calcutta, the Muslim National Guards are allowed to go out parading in processions in the streets of Calcutta, while the innocent students who in the exuberance of their youth staged a peaceful procession were fired upon in the streets of Calcutta. That is a fundamental objection on which we raise our voice of condemnation. It has now been the question that the Government must have the sanction of the people if they choose to take upon themselves the grave responsibility of governing Bengal under these emergency powers. This is not ordinary legislation. If Government take upon themselves the responsibility of foisting an Ordinance-Raj, we must see to it, if these powers are assumed, that these powers are used for the good of the people and not for a sectarian purpose or for the benefit of a section of the people who happen to be favoured by Government against another section

of the people who happen to differ from the Government. That is one of the fundamental points of criticism that we advance against these Ordinances. We also raise our voice of condemnation against this system of Ordinances, as such. We are no supporters of any Ordinance-Raj. There can be no provision under the provisions of the Constitution to govern Bengal by a system of Ordinances. That is why we gave notices of resolutions expressing our disapproval of these Ordinances. Unfortunately those resolutions have not found acceptance in this House. But I beg to remind this House that in the parliamentary system the Opposition is certainly not only a party inside the House but it is a party outside the House also. I may be permitted to say that the role of the Opposition, the object of the Opposition, is more aimed to transform the public opinion outside the House rather than inside the House. And with that object in view I rise here today not only to speak to the other side of the House but also to the people outside in general and appeal to them not to stand by the Ordinances for a moment and throw them into the waste-paper basket. It is not only a communal question so far as these Ordinances are concerned. It is a question of fundamental principle of the people and, as such, it is to the interest of the people that these Ordinances are not placed on a permanent footing on the Statute Book. I say therefore that these Ordinances should be sent out for eliciting public opinion. I think it would be a most grievous wrong if they are placed on the Statute Book without allowing the public to give an expression of their feeling on these Ordinances.

With these words, Sir, I move the motion that stands in my name.

Mr. NURUZZAMAN: মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়, সাময়িক অতীব প্রয়োজনীয় দায়িত্ব ও গুরুত্বপূর্ণ জরুরী আইনকেই Ordinance বলা হয়। উহা বলিলেই আমাদের ভীত ও চমকিত হওয়ার কিছুই নাই।

যখন দেশের শাসন সংরক্ষণ অত্যন্ত জটিল আকার ধারণ করে দেশে অরাজকতা আসিতে চায়, তখনই শাসন ও শৃঙ্খলা অব্যাহত রাখার জন্য নানারূপ সাময়িক জরুরী আইন প্রণয়ন করিতে হয়।

যখন দেশের নিত্য প্রচলিত সাধারণ আইন কানুন দেশ শাসনে ও দেশের লোকের নিত্য প্রয়োজনীয় দ্রব্যাদি সংগ্রহ করার পক্ষে যথেষ্ট নহে বলিয়া মনে হয়, তখন জরুরী আইন পাশ করা ব্যতীত অন্য কোন উপায়ও থাকে না। গত কতিপয় বৎসরে যে সব Ordinance পাশ বা জারী করা হয় তাহা ব্যতীত দেশ শাসন করা বিশেষ মুস্কিল হইত।

সখ করিয়া বা কারো কোন ক্ষতি সাধন করার মতলবে কভুও কোন Ordinance করা হয় না। ইহা শাসকের হস্ত সবল ও সুদৃঢ় করে, শান্তিপ্রিয় ও নির্দ্দোষ লোকদিগকে রক্ষা করিতে আইনের আওতায় ফেলিয়া।

ইহাতে কোন "কর" বা Tax বৃদ্ধির কথা নাই বা কোন সাম্প্রদায়িকতার কথাও নাই। আছে শুধু মানুষের সর্ব্বাঙ্গীন কল্যাণের উদ্দেশ্য নিহিত।

উহাতে কোন পক্ষেরই কোন আপত্তির হেতু থাকতে পারে না। শুধু বাধার খাতিরে বাধা দেওয়া বিশেষ কোন যুক্তিতর্ক ব্যতীত তাহা দেশের পক্ষে অমঙ্গলজনক।

সিভিক গার্ড বা নগররক্ষীদল Ordinance—সিভিক গার্ড বাহিনী দেশের অনেক মঙ্গলজনক কাজ করিয়াছে। অনেক স্থানে দাঙ্গা-হাঙ্গামা দমন কার্য্যে, নগর রক্ষায় ও অন্যান্য অনেক অনেক বিষয়ে পুলিশ হইতেও বেশী মূল্যবান কার্য্য করিয়াছে।

Collective Fine Ordinance—পাইকারী জরিমানা দেশের শাসন কার্য্যে বিশেষ সহায়তা করিয়াছে ও করিতেছে। ইহা ব্যাপকভাবে প্রচলিত ও প্রয়োগ না হইলে কলিকাতা, ঢাকা প্রভৃতি স্থানের দাঙ্গা ও অন্যান্য পাশবিক কার্য্য নিবারণ করা সুকঠিন হইত। উহা যে কাজ করিয়াছে শত শত পুলিশ ও মিলিটারী তাহা করিতে পারিত কিনা ঘোর সন্দেহের বিষয় বটে।

একটি একটি করিয়া বলিতে গেলে সব কয়টিই অতীব আবশ্যকীয় এবং দেশের মঙ্গলের জন্যই প্রণয়ন করা হইয়াছে।

অত্যাচার, অবিচার, উৎপীড়ন, জুলুম, ব্লাকমার্কেটিং, পাশবিকতা প্রভৃতি হইতে শান্তিপ্রিয় লোকদিগকে রক্ষা করিতে হইলে Ordinance করার যথেষ্ট হেতু ও প্রয়োজন রহিয়াছে।

ইহাকে সমর্থন না করার মানে হইবে দুষ্ট ও অশিষ্ট লোকদিগকে প্রশ্রয় দেওয়া বই আর কিছুই নহে। তদুপরি শাসন ও শাসকের হস্ত দুর্বল করা এবং নির্দোষ ও শান্তিপ্রিয়দের জীবনযাত্রা ভয়াবহ করিয়া তোলা এবং দেশের এই সঙ্কট মুহূর্তে তাহাদের জীবন, ধন, মান ইজ্জত, সুখশান্তি অরক্ষিত ও বিপদাপন্ন করা এবং অরাজকতা আনয়ন করা মাত্র।

দেশের বর্ত্তমান এই অশান্তির যুগে সরকারকে সর্বদাই বজ্রের ন্যায় কঠোর হইতে হইবে দুষ্টের দমন ও শিষ্টের পালনের জন্য এবং প্রয়োজন হইলে আরো Ordinance পাশ করিতে হইবে। স্বাধীনতা মানুষের জন্মগত অধিকার। শিষ্ট লোকদিগকে স্বাধীনভাবে বাস করিতে দিতে হইবে এবং তাহাদিগকে সর্ব্ব বিষয়ে সুরক্ষিত করিতে হইবে। শাসন দণ্ড অটুট ও অক্ষত রাখিতে হইবে নতুবা সবই বৃথা ও বিড়ম্বনা মাত্র।

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will get your chance to speak later on.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: On the circulation motion moved by Mr. Sinha?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am sure, Sir, the honourable member cannot add anything to what Mr. Sinha has stated.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, there is one point in the Statement of Objects and Reasons to which I deem it essential to draw your attention. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons it has been stated that the continuance of these Ordinances has been necessitated but it has not been stated what are the reasons for continuing them. The Bill refers to the Ordinances which were promulgated during the War, and it goes on to say——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar, do you want to speak?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, I want a few minutes to call the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to a few points and that will be the last speech from our side.

Sir, it has been stated that the recent disturbances in Bengal have necessitated emergent legislations connected with law and order. With reference to this particular point I would like to point out that Ordinances and Special Powers are no safeguards and guarantee for the maintenance of law and order where law and order gets endangered as a result of communal passions roused. Now, Sir, the point is that the Hon'ble Chief Minister who comes forward with this Bill and with this particular reason has insisted on this Bill knows very well that if the politics of his party does not abjure the rousing of communal passion and the communal basis for their very existence, it is impossible, if the communal passion is unleashed, to maintain law and order through legislative measures.

Sir, from the standpoint of the communal politics of the Hon'ble Chief Minister's party, they go on inflaming communal passion in everything, crying "Hindu" and crying "Muslim" on every point and crying "communalism" and thereby day in and day out in every walk of life we find that the political atmosphere in Bengal is vitiated to a degree by the unending and nauseating cry of communalism. If it is a question of admission of students to colleges, there comes communalism. There is no question of more accommodation for the education of all students, but there is the question of communal apportionment and division in the matter of admission. In that way we find a surplus and a huge volume of communal malcontents created directly as a result of this policy. I say that if by a continued policy of communalism, you lead on to such passion being unleashed, then these laws and ordinances are no safeguards. On the contrary, unless and until the Hon'ble Chief Minister's party finds its way to abjure politics of communalism, he knows it very well as I do that among the non-Muslim populations of the country there is bound to be suspicion,

however deplorable and undesirable it may be, that all these measures are meant to serve the communal ends of his party with a view to strangle and throttle those who do not fall in line with his communal politics. We know, during the recent disturbances as a result of encouraging communal passion, what happened. Even such Muslims who did not approve of the politics of communalism of the Muslim League were attacked and were in constant danger. I, therefore, suggest that it would be nothing short of sheer hypocrisy to talk of the recent disturbances in Calcutta as a plea for continuance of these ordinances. These disturbances did not arise out of any weakness in the machinery of law, they did not arise out of any dearth of legal powers. These disturbances arose out of the deliberate policy that the Hon'ble Chief Minister's party has been following in this country I say this is absolute hypocrisy to plead these disturbances for further powers. Unless communalism is abjured, these measures are no safeguards. Let the Hon'ble Chief Minister say whether he would advise his party to abjure this politics of communalism in order to maintain law and order in this country, otherwise this province, as sure as anything, as the Hon'ble Chief Minister threatened on the 16th August in his speech, is heading towards civil war and these laws will be no safeguards.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I am sorry that Mr. Sinha has made such a strong speech on such a minor matter. The result of such speeches is that when he really begins to cry "wolf", nobody will pay attention to it. I think that after all the speeches delivered on that day we have made it abundantly clear that these ordinances that were being enacted had to be brought into operation because the ordinances produced by the Government of India and which affected the provincial jurisdiction lapsed on the 30th September. If we are largely mortgaging our rights—not merely mortgaging your rights but mortgaging our rights—we are doing so only for 6 months and may be for a year, but certainly this Bill will disappear before June, 1948, when I suppose we shall be in a position to make a fresh start.

I resent very strongly any insinuation that these ordinances or any such have been utilized in a discriminatory manner or against any particular community. As a matter of fact, it is abundantly known to my friends opposite that there is grave resentment amongst the Muslims for, if I may so put it, the even-handed justice which this Government has dealt and I propose, Sir, to follow the policy with which we came into the Legislature, viz., to deal fairly, squarely and justly by all peoples. I think that I am entitled to stand here and say that any laws which Government may take unto itself will be dealt with without any discrimination whatsoever. (Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Being communal you cannot be impartial.)

As regards Mr. Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar's speech on communalism, I hardly think that anybody here gives any credit to it, but I would like to say this one thing on behalf of the defence of the Chief Minister's party which has been so maligned by the honourable member that there would not have been any word Muslim or Hindu or communalism or any communal party if Mr. Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar and his party, when they had the administration and power in their hands, had dealt with the Muslims fairly and squarely.

The motion of Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha that the Bengal Ordinances Temporary Enactment Bill, 1947, be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by 31st December, 1947, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy that the Bengal Ordinances Temporary Enactment Bill, 1947, be taken into consideration was then put and agreed to.

Clause 1.

The question that clause 1 stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Sir, I beg to move that in clause 2, line 4, for the word "six" the word "three" be substituted.

Sir, let me say a few words in support of my amendment. Fundamentally I am opposed to this measure—this Ordinance rule, arbitrary rule. It is not desirable that this extraordinary, extra-judicial measure should remain in force even for three seconds. Attempts have been made from this side of the House for the last few days to impress upon the Government the desirability of dropping this measure altogether but they were of no avail. So, I am now trying to limit and lessen the evil effects of these Ordinances as much as possible. Hence my amendment to limit the operation of this measure to three months only. Judged from another view point, it may meanwhile afford sufficient time to all concerned to separately consider each of these things *in extenso*, if necessary.

Sir, with these words I commend my amendment to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I oppose it because Government want time to consider each separate Ordinance *in extenso*, as my learned friend puts it. We want time to do it and for that reason we are asking for six months' time and, if necessary, for a year.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, I am supporting Mr. Dhar's amendment.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you not moving your amendment?

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: No, Sir, I am not moving my amendment.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg to move that the proviso to clause 2 be omitted.

Sir, in moving this amendment I have got one word to say. On principle I am opposed to give the executive power to extend the operation of the Bill without referring the matter to the Legislature. Power has been given in the clause itself that the Bill will continue to be in operation for six months. Then, Sir, in the proviso it has been stated that the Executive, if it so intends, can extend the operation for a further period of six months without referring the matter to the Legislature. On principle, Sir, I am opposed to that.

Secondly, Sir, I think the Hon'ble Chief Minister has told us that with regard to the Ordinances Bills will be introduced, and as a matter of fact Bills have been introduced in the Legislature, and I am quite sure, Sir, that a period of six months is quite sufficient to have the Bills passed. If the Bills are passed by this House there is no necessity for extension for a further period of six months.

On these grounds, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in the proviso to clause 2, line 4, for the words "six" the word "three" be substituted.

Sir, the object of my motion is amply clear. First of all, Sir, I support the amendment that has been moved by the Deputy Leader of our party, but in case Government feels that it cannot hurry up and requires such a long period of time even to the extent of one year for the Bills to be taken into consideration and passed, well then, Sir, I submit that such a long time should not be given in the second case, and instead of the word "six" the word "three" should be substituted.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I wish I could have accepted that resolution, because on principle it is not proper that Government should extend the time of a law by an executive order. I quite realise that. But owing to the fact that a tremendous amount of work has to be done by this House, it may not be possible for us to put through all the measures. Also, Sir, this House has a method of obstructing and objecting very successfully to any measure that it does not like. (Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: No, no.) So, Sir, I feel that I must take this power into our hands. I can assure the House that we will not exercise this power arbitrarily and I shall open myself to censure of any kind, should the House find that we are exercising this power unnecessarily.

The motion of Mr. Manoranjan Dhar that in clause 2, line 4, for the word "six" the word "three" be substituted, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the proviso to clause 2 be omitted, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha that in the proviso to clause 2, line 4, for the word "six" the word "three" be substituted, was then put and lost.

The question that clause 2 do stand part of the Bill, was then put and agreed to.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After Adjournment.)

The Schedule.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in the Schedule the figures "1946" under the heading "Year", the figure "II" under the heading "Number", the words and figures "The Bengal Civic Guards and Collective Fines Continuance Ordinance, 1946" under the heading "Short title" be omitted.

Sir, the object of my amendment is clear. That is, so far as the provisions of the Bengal Civic Guards and Collective Fines Ordinances are concerned, I want that they should not continue in operation for a period of six months as desired by this Bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to give a long speech. What I want to say was said by me when the resolution disapproving the Ordinance was moved by my friend Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha. Sir, I feel that there has been discrimination in the Collective Fines Ordinance, but the Hon'ble Chief Minister has just now told us that there will not be any discrimination. What I want, Sir, is imposition of collective fines in Noakhali and Tippera, but no collective fines have been imposed there, and I am further told that in the imposition of collective fines in Dacca there has been discrimination, because in the case of a person who was killed only a fine of Rs. 300 was imposed, but in the case of a person who was injured a fine of Rs. 5,000 had been imposed. Such a discrimination has taken place in the past and I feel, Sir, that such a discrimination will take place in future. Moreover the imposition of collective fines causes hardship upon innocent people too. So, Sir, I do not want that the provision of the Collective Fines Ordinance should continue in operation for a further period than six months.

With regard to Civic Guards, Sir, I have expressed my views already, namely, that Muslim National guards will be another name of civic guards and I still entertain the view that Civic Guards will act as Muslim National guards.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS-GUPTA : মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়, শ্রীযুক্ত ধীরেন্দ্র নাথ দত্ত মহাশয় যে আপত্তি তুলেছেন আমি সেই আপত্তি সমর্থন করবার জন্য দাঁড়িয়েছি। Civic Guard এবং Collective Fine Ordinance আগেও ছিল। অর্ডিন্যান্স ভাল কি মন্দ এ সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা করবার প্রয়োজন নেই। সেটা সকলের অত্যন্ত জানা কথা, কিন্তু এখানে আজ অর্ডিন্যান্সের যে কথাটা উঠেছে সে কথাটা এই যে এই অর্ডিন্যান্স আরও কিছুদিন চালিয়ে নিতে হবে। কোন একটা কাজ করে যদি আমরা বুঝি যে তাতে কোন ফল পেয়েছি তাহ'লে আমরা বলতে পারি যে, সেটায় যখন ফল পেয়েছি তখন এটা আরও কিছুদিন চালিয়ে নেব।

এই বাংলা দেশের বুকের উপর কিছুদিন ধরে যে দাঙ্গা-হাঙ্গামার তাণ্ডবলীলা চললো সেগুলি থামাবার জন্য তখন কি ব্যবস্থা হয়েছিল সে কথাটা আমাদের জানতে হবে। Civic Guard বলে যে একটা দল গঠিত হয়েছিল তারা কি পেরেছিল বাংলার বিভিন্ন অঞ্চলে যে দাঙ্গা-হাঙ্গামা হয় সেই দাঙ্গা-হাঙ্গামাকে ঠেকাতে? যদি সেদিন তারা সে দাঙ্গা-হাঙ্গামাকে ঠেকাতে না পেরে থাকে, তাহ'লে আজকে আবার নূতন করে তাদের জীবনকে বাড়িয়ে দিব কোন লাভের আশায়? এই কথাই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর কাছে জানতে চাই। Collective Fine একটা অদ্ভুত কথা। এ দেশের শান্তি রক্ষা করবার জন্য মন্ত্রী মহাশয় থেকে আরম্ভ করে পুলিশ Constable, চৌকিদার পর্য্যন্ত বেতন পেয়ে থাকে। আর এই যে এত বড় একটা দাঙ্গা হয়ে গেল এই দাঙ্গা না পারল মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বন্ধ করতে, না পারল কলিকাতার পুলিশ কমিশনার ঠেকাতে এবং তা' না পারল মফঃস্বলের সমস্ত পুলিশে ঠেকাতে। আর তারপর তাঁরা করলেন কি? না, যাদের হাতে অস্ত্র ছিল না, যাদের হাতে আইনের বল ছিল না সেই সব নিরীহ লোকের উপর জরিমানা করে বসলেন। এই দাঙ্গা, যারা মাইনে পায় তারা ঠেকাতে পারেনি --এই লজ্জা ঢাকবার জন্য আজ তাঁরা আমাদের ঘাড়ে চাপাচ্ছেন Collective Fine। এই Collective Fine করে কি তারা দাঙ্গা থামাতে পেরেছিলেন? যখন দাঙ্গা চলছিল তখন Collective Fine এর কোন ব্যবস্থা হয় নাই। আজ দাঙ্গা যখন কমে গিয়েছে এখন তাঁরা বেরিয়েছেন সেই নিরীহ লোকদের উপর অত্যাচার করবার জন্য। বর্ত্তমানে যে আইন ব্যবস্থা রয়েছে সেই ব্যবস্থায় যদি Collective Fine করতে হয় তা হ'লে আমার মনে হয় এই Collective Fine যে মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের হাতে শান্তি রক্ষার ভার, তারপরে পুলিশ কমিশনার এবং তারপর মফঃস্বলের পুলিশ--এঁদের মাইনে থেকে যদি কেটে নেওয়া যায় তাহ'লে ভবিষ্যতে তারা সাবধান হবেন। Tagore Law Lectureএ পড়েছিলাম এক সময় নাকি জমিদারদের উপর ভার ছিল দেশের শান্তিরক্ষার, যদি তাঁরা চোর ডাকাত না ঠেকাতে পারত তাহ'লে তাঁদের কাছ থেকে compensation আদায় হ'ত, আজ সে আইন বদলে গিয়েছে। যাঁরা বেতন পাবে তাঁরা শান্তি রক্ষার কোন কাজ করবে না—তাঁরা কেবল বেতন, ভাতা ও pension নিয়েই খালাস আর যাদের হাতে অস্ত্র নেই যাদের হাতে শক্তি নেই তাদের ঘাড়ে চাপিয়ে দিলেন তাঁরা Collective Fine এই অজুহাতে ও এই ভিত্তিতে আমি এই সম্বন্ধে আমার আপত্তি জানাচ্ছি।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Suhrawardy.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I would prefer that all the amendments are moved and then I would give a general reply.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I beg to move that in the Schedule the figures "1946" under the heading "Year", the figure "III" under the heading "Number", the words and figures "The Bengal Molasses Control Ordinance, 1946" under the heading "Short title" be omitted.

Sir, I will not make any speech but the speech will be made by my Deputy Leader, Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I do not think there is any necessity of a provision for control of molasses in Bengal. So I would urge upon the Government to discontinue this measure.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Sir, I beg to move that in the Schedule the figures "1946" under the heading "Year", the figure "IV" under the heading "Number", the words and figures "The Bengal Drugs Control Continuance Ordinance, 1946" under the heading "Short title" be omitted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will speak a few words in moving this motion. Generally speaking, I am against vesting this partisan and

communal Government with any controlling power anywhere. Sir, with the end of the war all sorts of control, regimentation and commandeering of public life should have ended, but unfortunately it is not so. Sir, controls under bad auspices are most harmful and controls without any adequate arrangements for distribution and supply really do more harm than good. What harm these controlling measures have done will be evident from one salient fact. You know, Sir, that thousands of patients are dying of malaria for want of quinine, and many patients and medical practitioners have openly complained that they are not getting supply of quinine. And why? Government have said that output of quinine has increased and supplies are coming from various sources. But where do these supplies go? This supply of quinine goes to the black market. It is a mystery. Control without any proper system of distribution—this one-eyed, partisan and motivated control can do no good to the country.

Sir, as regards the supply position of various drugs I am told that the supply position is steadily improving. Various supplies are coming from different sources from foreign countries and also from local manufacturers who are rapidly augmenting the supplies. Generally drugs are available now in abundance. There may be shortage of a few items here and there but generally all available drugs are in the market. Some drugs go to the black market no doubt, but that there is an abundant supply of them is an incontrovertible truth. Sir, a few days ago I was told that the Provincial Drugs Advisory Committee held a meeting on the 14th January last. This Provincial Drugs Advisory Committee specially recommended that there should be no further control over drugs because of the vast improvement in the supply position. All the members of the Committee were present in that meeting. It goes without saying that it is a governmental body and in that body are represented almost all sections of the people including traders and medical practitioners and Government representatives are also there. With only the Government representatives dissenting, that Committee declared that there should be no further control of drugs. Still the Government is determined to continue this controlling measure. And what for? Sir, as regards quinine it was specifically recommended that quinine should be forthwith decontrolled. But nothing is being done to make that effective. Sir, if we look at the pictures of other provinces where the Government of India Control Order lapsed on September 30, we find that no other province except Bengal and Sind has continued this control measure. Everywhere else it has been discontinued. Why should it continue in Bengal? Madras was continuing it, but since January last they have also discontinued it. Sir, the Hon'ble Minister must make out a sufficient case for continuing this control measure here in Bengal.

Sir, there are other aspects too. This control on provincial basis has some undesirable aspects. There may be some articles with short supplies. If you control these things, they will find their way to other provinces where there is no control over drugs, and these drugs may go underground and may go into the black market. So, Sir, as a result of this measure the suffering people will not be benefited in any way. Unless and until Government look at the picture as a whole, unless and until Government are prepared to tackle the measure whole-heartedly as whole-hogger, and unless they look at the problem from all the angles possible, they cannot be entrusted with this ill-conceived power. So, Sir, even if this control is to be continued, I say that they may reconsider the whole position, they may fully analyse the position. They may find out whether all the items of drugs are in short supply or not. First let them ascertain what are the items which are in short supply. If they find that it is necessary that control over those items should be continued, they may come up before the Assembly with a fresh proposal, and, I think, the House will not object to that. But without ascertaining the position as a whole, without exact calculation, how can they go on blindly imposing control over all the items? Sir,

handled, you will see in respect of important drugs, such as quinine or any other product of cinchona, that there will be an eternal shortage of those drugs—not because they are in short supply, not because they are not manufactured, there is an immense possibility of manufacturing cinchona products in this country, but because of Government's bungling and indifference. Government are not moving to set right the defective distributive arrangement. They only want to mechanically impose control on drugs and all other things. So, Sir, this blind mood of Government for imposing control must be resisted, and this is why we are obstructing the proposal for imposing control. With these few words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dhar, you may move your next amendment.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Sir, I beg to move that in the Schedule the figures "1946" under the heading "Year", the figure "VI" under the heading "Number", the words and figures "The Bengal Special Powers Ordinance, 1946" under the heading "Short title" be omitted.

Sir, this is the most obnoxious of all Ordinances. The principles underlying this measure are repugnant to all canons of justice and equity. Sir, all the oppressive provisions of a war-time measure, I mean the Defence of India Rules, are exactly reproduced and embodied in the provisions of this Ordinance. In this Bill, the definition of "prejudicial act" and the definition of "prejudicial reports" are also an exact rehash of the definitions contained in the Defence of India Rules. Sir, we have not yet forgotten the tragic history of repressions—country-wide repressions, carried on under the cover of those Defence of India Rules. Sir, thousands of persons were detained, thousands of houses were blasted, and insults and indignities were meted out to thousands of innocent persons—all those, under the universally condemned Defence of India Rules. I am afraid, all these things may occur again under this measure. Sir, here the recent disturbances have been trotted out as one of the excuses for this measure. That is an untenable plea. I think it is a mere camouflage. Government's intention is to subdue, to suppress every popular movement, every popular demonstration under the cover of this measure. Actually it is so happening. Powers given under this Ordinance are sure to be abused by the reactionary die-hard bureaucrats who are never over-burdened with any conscientious scruples in the name of maintaining law and order. I am sure, Sir, in the name of maintaining law and order, in the name of maintaining public order, they are going to maintain an ominous bureaucratic sway over the public life in every way.

The other day the Hon'ble the Chief Minister was telling the House, in reply to an interpetation made by me, that this measure was not being used in political spheres. That is a lie, Sir. I say it is a deliberate distortion of truth. Actually it is being used against political workers in the political sphere. I shall cite a few instances. In Mymensingh, on 22nd January, a procession was taken out, a peaceful procession, a lawful procession. It was peacefully passing along Mymensingh roads without any disturbance, without causing annoyance to anybody, when out of the procession suddenly 32 students were taken away and put under arrest for no rhyme or reason then and there. On receipt of that information I approached the District Magistrate. I asked him about the reason for those arrests. He said that he knew nothing about that. I approached the Superintendent of Police. He also pleaded ignorance. I approached the Additional District Magistrate and he too pleaded ignorance. Everybody, every officer present pleaded ignorance as to the cause of the arrests. Sir, then I came to learn that till late hours in the evening those 32 students were kept and harassed outside the jail gate because in the absence of remand orders the Jailor or the Superintendent of the Jail would not receive those persons. Practically

till late hours in the evening the officers were in a fix as to how to put them in jail custody because they did not commit any cognisable offence. There was no reason to haul them up, still they were to be kept in jail anyhow. Then, Sir, this black measure readily came to the help of the District Magistrate, this handy measure, this Special Powers Ordinance. I went to the jail gate next morning and on enquiry came to know that some time between 8 and 9 p.m. the District Magistrate sent general warrants of arrest saying that all those persons, those students, were put under arrest under some provisions of the Special Powers Ordinance. So, just see, Sir, how gross abuse of power it can be! The Magistrate was in a fix till the evening how to keep them in jail custody. Thus, this arbitrary and handy measure was fully utilised for suppressing the legitimate students' demonstration, students' movement. Things did not stop there. A few days back all the Printing Presses in Mymensingh town were searched, and from one Printing Press a respectable gentleman, a member of the Bar, Mr. Biraj Mohan Ghosh, was arrested on the ostensible plea, and a false plea, of infringement of some provision of this Ordinance. Not only that. In Kishoreganj 9 persons were arrested and all of them were put under arrest under some provision of this Ordinance. Of course those charges were mixed up with some other kinds of charges too. Then, Sir, on the 16th January I went to Susang and there I found in the thana compound 3 persons under arrest. I approached the thana authorities and I asked them under what provision they were arrested. The thana authorities could not say anything. Till evening they waited. They wired to Mymensingh and instruction was sent to the Susang thana authorities saying that those persons were wanted by Mymensingh Kotwali police-station for infringement of some provision of this Ordinance. What a monstrous state of things! The persons arrested were never near about that thana for the last six months or so. They generally live in Netrakona in a remote mofassil village. Still the Mymensingh Kotwali police-station wanted them for an infringement of the provisions of the Special Powers Ordinance. Then again, Sir, you know that firing took place in Mymensingh on 22nd January. The students were fired upon by the police. There were many injured by firing and *lathi* charges and the injured persons were admitted into the hospital. Before they are discharged from the hospital, before their recovery, all the injured persons have been put under arrest under this Ordinance among other charges. Still Mr. Suhrawardy will say "No, this is not being used to suppress any political activities of any political organisation". He also said the other day that it is not necessary for the authorities to resort to these measures in dealing with such a political situation. But does he not know and does he forget that his bureaucratic officers do all these unnecessary and arbitrary things in the name of maintaining law and order? They have got such a special knack and specially dark tradition of maintaining law and order in this cursed Province of Bengal. They will always use these discretionary powers—powers of indiscriminate and extra-judicial arrests, detention, and of restriction and suppression of civil liberties in various ways. They will do all these things on the pretext of maintaining law and order, as they have always done in the past. Sir, the communal disturbances are trotted out as an excuse. It is a camouflage. Had there been any will to suppress communal disturbances, the ordinary laws of the land would have been found sufficient to cope with the situation, but what did they do in Calcutta, in Noakhali or elsewhere? Did they resort to the ordinary laws of the land in suppressing those disturbances in proper time and manner? Certainly not. We have yet to know what steps have so far been taken under these measures to counter the trend of communalism in this country. We do not know of any tangible measures being taken so far. Sir, these measures must not be allowed to be put on the Statute Book. In the name of justice, in the name of equity, I will ask this House to reject this measure outright. This mischievous measure should not be allowed to be placed on the Statute Book.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable members have given notice of some identical motions for amendments. I think all the amendments should be moved before the speeches are made.

Mr. Sinha to move his motion.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I beg to move that in the Schedule the figures "1946" under the heading "Year", the figure "VII" under the heading "Number", the words and figures "The Bengal Consumer Goods Control Ordinance, 1946" under the heading "Short title" be omitted.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, I beg to move that in the Schedule the figures "1946" under the heading "Year", the figure "VIII" under the heading "Number", the words and figures "The Dacca Area Security Ordinance, 1946" under the heading "Short title" be omitted.

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Sir, I beg to move that in the Schedule the figures "1946" under the heading "Year", the figure "X" under the heading "Number", the words and figures "The Noakhali and Tippera Area Security Ordinance, 1946" under the heading "Short title" be omitted.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I beg to move that in the Schedule the figures "1946" under the heading "Year", the figure "XI" under the heading "Number", the words and figures "The Bengal Jute Mills (Temporary Provision) Ordinance, 1946" under the heading "Short title" be omitted.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg to move that in the Schedule the figures "1947" under the heading "Year", the figure "I" under the heading "Number", the words and figures "The Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1947" under the heading "Short title" be omitted.

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Sir, I beg to move that in the Schedule the figures "1947" under the heading "Year", the figure "III" under the heading "Number", the words and figures "The Bengal Civil Pioneer Force Ordinance, 1947" under the heading "Short title" be added.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the amendment purporting to omit the Bengal Special Powers Ordinance, 1946, from the Schedule of Ordinances mentioned in the Bill.

Sir, the House has to be reminded as to some of the provisions and powers which are sought to be obtained under this particular Ordinance. It suggests, Sir, that censorship on the press should be imposed and that power should rest with Government. Sir, there are enough restrictive laws concerning the liberties of the press. I do not see any reason why a fresh Ordinance is sought to be continued which again reinforces the already abundant powers of Government to impose restrictions on the press. Sir, this particular Ministry coming at this stage with proposals for further powers for enforcing restriction on the press indeed raises great forebodings in our minds. It reminds us of various events such as the events of August, 1946. It warns us that, in the event of fresh outbreaks of that nature taking place, power for restrictions on the press will be necessary. I ask Sir, power for restriction on which kind of press. Is it on the kind of press which goes on day in and day out inflaming communal passions, the organs which are the exponents of the party policy of the Hon'ble Chief Minister? Are restrictions going to be placed on that sort of press? Is the Hon'ble Chief Minister going to order that no kind of publication which will have the effect of inflaming communal passions shall be allowed?

Mr. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Sir, under rule 12 of the Assembly Procedure Rules no member can charge any other member in his speech, and my honourable friend is charging another member. That is my point of order. What he is saying amounts to charging another member. Under the rules if a member is found charging another member he can be stopped.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot make a speech, Mr. Hossain. Please sit down. That is no point of order.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, within the limits of my time, I cannot dilate further on the point. I can only ask you to pause and think about the effect. As you surely know, Sir, out of the debates which took place in the Bihar Legislative Assembly consequent upon the events, the regrettable events which took place there, publications have been made in the Muslim League press, which have the effect of direct incitement in Bengal and further aggravation of the situation. I ask, Sir, what steps did the Chief Minister take. These Ordinances were passed, as is mentioned, on the 30th September, and these publications in the Muslim League press were made sometime after that. I do not think, Sir, that the present Ministry has taken any steps to curb the zeal of certain party which play upon communal passions and make that their capital. It is also stated here that it will be necessary in order to prevent unauthorised drilling of a military nature. Sir, it is utter mockery and hypocrisy to find that the Hon'ble the Chief Minister comes out with such a proposal when in spite of section 144 remaining in vogue in Calcutta we find day in and day out the Muslim League National Guards parading in the streets of Calcutta. And we have unimpeachable evidence in our possession to show what propaganda they carry on. During the days of August, 1946, they say, there was looting, more than killing; and what was more needed was killing. These are the war-cries instilled into the ears of the Muslim League National Guards. Then I do not know what steps the Hon'ble the Chief Minister has taken to prevent the nefarious drilling of the Muslim League National Guards. I would favour maintaining national guards of all sorts, if they thrive on the propaganda of communal amity and on the propaganda of democratic principles and of security of life and property. Sir, the Hon'ble the Chief Minister has asked for more powers to curb the rioters. I would point out to you that twenty men in North Bengal and several scores of men in Mymensingh were recently shot down, but I ask how many Muslim hooligans were shot down in Noakhali when the outrages were taking place there? That very fact itself makes the Government's intentions suspect. I therefore suggest that these powers which are sought under the Bengal Special Powers Ordinance are dangerous. And it is more dangerous in the hands of a Ministry of this description which depends on the support of party which thrives on communal discord, holding out threats of civil war as it has ever done. What was the context of the Chief Minister's speech on the 16th August after which the situation in the city took the most ugly turn? That speech of his has never seen the light of the day. Has that speech been recorded by the officers posted on duty there for the purpose of taking down speeches? But speeches imported from other provinces are allowed to be published in the Muslim League Press. Did the Chief Minister ever say that "I have to suppress this propaganda, and therefore I come forward and ask for more powers"? This House would in that case be glad to enable him to have more powers to suppress communalism if his party was prepared to abjure the principles of communalism. He says that the communal situation has taken such a bitter turn as never before and in order to enable him to deal satisfactorily with disturbances that may occur in future he

asks for these powers. Sir, this is a flimsy pretext which deceives no one. On the contrary we find that he and his party and men of that persuasion are preparing for a recurrence and repetition of that sort of incidents. He has also said that June, 1948, may see repetition of such incidents. But even before that we may note that India may not have a happy ending in parting with British rule and in Bengal there may be political extermination of all those elements which did not fall in line with the party and the purpose that the Hon'ble the Chief Minister and his associates advocate — they are to be made politically extinct and exterminated. So, Sir, in these circumstances we doubt that under his sweet words of impartial justice to be meted out to us under these Ordinances lies concealed the most pernicious communalism which is out for the establishment of communal domination in politics in Bengal. Sir, as you know, his party is of such a persuasion and therefore it is dangerous to arm him with these powers. Within the framework of all-India politics they have the temerity to say that "on an all-India basis we must have 50-50 ratio" even when they are only 23 per cent. of the population. But if his party had the generosity and good feeling to say that "although we are a majority"—communal majority under a communal constitution in Bengal—"we allow 50-50 ratio in the administration of the province", we could understand it. Sir, I shall, without meaning any disrespect to you, ask you to consider how is it that in the course of ten years of continuance of the provincial legislature not on a single occasion could the Speaker be anybody else than a member of a particular religious community; and even the Deputy Speaker could not be of any other community than of the community and of the party and persuasion of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister. That shows that people of such persuasion are unfit to be armed with such powers. In this connection, Sir, I may be permitted to point out that in the Calcutta Corporation there are members who from the religious point of view are in a majority but we see a fair, righteous, reasonable and commendable practice of election of Mayor by rotation from the different communities. But the narrowness and communal persuasion of the Muslim League party has never risen to that height. Under the Congress, Sir, the Hon'ble Chief Minister had the distinction of being the First Deputy Mayor under the leadership of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das. But that was not on the basis of the pernicious principle of majority and minority communal ratio and so on and so forth. That was on the basis of good sense and fairplay: that was on the basis of the principles of democracy and nationalism. There is scope for all there. But those who wish to ruin Bengal and lay Bengal desolate, who wish to prepare our province for a most dreadful civil war are persons who try to cover their ugly heads behind this pernicious legislation in order that they may tear this fair province into pieces. What is the good of the Chief Minister's coming today and saying that he needs these powers? He has admitted that these Ordinances were promulgated on the 30th September. I ask, under these Ordinances how many criminals were apprehended in Noakhali? I may remind the House of the mournful fact that the Assistant Secretary of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee succumbed on the holy day of Mohurrum to an assassin's knife. What is the reason that the culprit or culprits could not be apprehended even though the Chief Minister was at that time armed with these powers? In November how many criminals and persons connected with them were apprehended and arrested? No investigation even took place. Now, here you ask for more powers. Who does not know that there have been enough powers, as such? Even the office of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee was searched after the August outrages. And after that the Hon'ble the Chief Minister on behalf of his party which has by now become notorious all over the world for its perniciousness comes forward and has the temerity to say that he needs more powers for administering even-handed justice, for censorship over the Press and for powers for searches, arrests and detention and so on and so forth. (At this stage the blue light was on.) Sir, the blue

is gloomy enough. I hope the Hon'ble the Chief Minister will answer and satisfy the House on the real necessity of more powers for his communal Government.

(When the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy rose to speak, Mr. Ganendra Chandra Bhattacharjee also rose up.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Bhattacharjee, I can give you only two or three minutes.

Mr. GANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, if I have to do justice to the amendment, I would have to take more time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry, I cannot give you more time.

Mr. GANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: In that case, Sir, I do not want to speak.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, the honourable member may speak when another Bill comes up before the House, and that is probably the advice that I would have the temerity to tender to Mr. Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar that he might have saved his forensic oratory today for a more auspicious occasion when that Bill comes up before the House for consideration. I think on that occasion he will probably repeat himself because he has exhausted the armoury of his arguments.

I think, Sir, it is hardly worthwhile to reply to the baseless charges that my friend has made, and as he has made a reference and called me to witness, may I just point out that if the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of this House have been of a particular persuasion we have taken the leaf out of the book of the Congress where although the Congress claim to have people of all communities within its ranks, I do not think that any Congress province thought it desirable to have a President or a Speaker of a particular persuasion.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: The offer has been refused.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am perfectly certain that had my honourable friends offered the Speakership to a member of the other community not of that persuasion who was also a member of the Congress, the offer would not have been refused.

Now, Sir, as regards the powers that we ask for against the Press, I am sorry that we did not have those powers at the time when an announcement was made by no less a person than the President of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee to the effect that 5,000 persons had been killed in Noakhali, an announcement which was really responsible for the murder of ten times as many Muslims in another part of the country. I wish we had those powers then, and because we took those powers subsequently, in spite of that terrific holocaust there has not been any repercussion in any other part of the province. (Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: You had those powers at the time of Noakhali.) No, we had not all those powers. Now, Sir, we do propose to take these steps against all papers that inflame communal passion and we have taken steps against all those papers. I will not name them but the greatest culprits of this happen to be the papers that have the same persuasion, the same communal persuasion as that of Mr. Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar.

Sir, I need not refer to any further arguments except possibly only just to point out certain misapprehensions in the mind of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta. He says that the Civic Guards will perpetuate or something of that kind, will only be a branch of the Muslim National Guards. If my

information is correct and the honourable member's information is wrong, most of the members of the Civic Guards happen to be members of the community of his persuasion and not members of the Muslim National Guard because the honourable member ought to know that Civic Guards are guards within municipalities where his community predominate.

Secondly, Sir, as regards the collective fines, he has attacked the question of principle, but it has been agreed that in a conflagration in which it is not a case of individuals but a case of peoples actually fighting against each other, the collective fine is very salutary and I make bold to say, Sir, that the collective fines are largely responsible for the cessation of conflicts in Calcutta, Howrah and Dacca. It is said that the collective fines in Dacca have been discriminatory and discriminatory against the Hindus. Does the honourable member know that when the first collective fine was imposed we received deputations from Dacca pointing out in no uncertain terms that the fines that have been imposed were extremely discriminatory against the Muslims. It was since then that a certain standard was laid down which is applicable both to Hindus and to Muslims and that has been rigorously followed. That is all, Sir, I need say in the matter. I am sure that these arguments will be repeated once more with a great deal of vigour when these Ordinances are placed before the House in the form of Bills.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that in the Schedule the figures "1946" under the heading "Year", the figure "II" under the heading "Number", the words and figures "The Bengal Civic Guards and Collective Fines Continuance Ordinance, 1946" under the heading "Short title" be omitted was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha that in the Schedule the figures "1946" under the heading "Year", the figure "III" under the heading "Number", the words and figures "The Bengal Molasses Control Ordinance, 1946" under the heading "Short title" be omitted was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Manoranjan Dhar that in the Schedule the figures "1946" under the heading "Year", the figure "IV" under the heading "number", the words and figure "The Bengal Drugs Control Continuance Ordinance, 1946" under the heading "Short title" be omitted was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Manoranjan Dhar that in the Schedule the figures "1946" under the heading "Year", the figure "VI" under the heading "Number"', the words and figures "The Bengal Special Powers Ordinance, 1946" under the heading "Short title" be omitted was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha that in the Schedule the figures "1946" under the heading "Year", the figure "VII" under the heading "Number", the words and figures "The Bengal Consumer Goods Control Ordinance, 1946" under the heading "Short title" be omitted was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Ganendra Chandra Bhattacharjee that in the Schedule the figures "1946" under the heading "Year", the figure "VIII" under the heading "Number", the words and figures "The Dacca Area Security Ordinance, 1946" under the heading "Short title" be omitted was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Abdul Karim that in the Schedule the figures "1946" under the heading "Year", the figure "X" under the heading "Number", the words and figures "The Noakhali and Tippera Area Security Ordinance, 1946" under the heading "Short title" be omitted was then put and agreed to.

The motion of Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha that in the Schedule the figures "1946" under the heading "Year", the figure "XI" under the heading "Number", the words and figures "The Bengal Jute Mills (Temporary Provision) Ordinance, 1946" under the heading "Short title" be omitted was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that in the Schedule the figures "1947" under the heading "Year", the figure "I" under the heading "Number", the words and figures "The Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1947" under the heading "Short title" be omitted was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Abdul Karim that in the Schedule the figures "1947" under the heading "Year", the figure "III" under the heading "Number", the words and figures "The Bengal Civil Pioneer Force Ordinance, 1947" under the heading "Short title" be added was then put and agreed to.

The question that the Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Preamble.

The question that the Preamble stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I beg to move, Sir, that the Bengal Ordinances Temporary Enactment Bill, 1947, as settled in the Assembly be passed.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-45 p.m. till 4-30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 25th February, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 25th February, 1947, at 4-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 203 members.

STARRED QUESTION

(to which oral answer was given)

Popularisation of khadi and hand-spinning.

***86. Mr. ANNADA PRASAD MANDAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department be pleased to state whether the Government have thought it desirable to popularise *khadi* and encourage hand-spinning in this Province?

(*b*) If not, why not?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE, LABOUR and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmad): (*a*) and (*b*) Attempt of Government to popularise *khadi* and hand-spinning has not been attended with much success because of slow and uneconomic output. The matter will, however, receive my further attention.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: With reference to answers (*a*) and *b*), viz., "attempt of Government to popularise *khadi* and hand-spinning has not been attended with much success", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government had tried hand-spinning? I want the names of the places?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMAD: In some places Government made attempts before we took office.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give the names of the places?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMAD: I cannot say that.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি যে কিছুদিন পূর্বে জেলের কয়েদীদের দ্বারা তক্‌লী কাট্‌বার যে ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছিল জেলারগণ সে বিষয়ে বেশী মনোযোগ দেন নাই : সেই জন্যই কি বলা হয়েছে "slow and uneconomic output", না সত্যই চেষ্টা করে দেখা হয় নাই ?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMAD: That is for the honourable member to guess.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that several voluntary organisations in Bengal have been carrying on hand-spinning and hand-weaving for the last 25 years with success?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMAD: It has been stated by Government officials that so far as Government is concerned it has been found uneconomic; so far as voluntary and patriotic work is concerned, it is a different thing. My honourable friend may be right. I myself wear *khadi* and I am very much in favour of it, but from the point of view of Government the thing has been considered differently by different officers.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government has ever made attempt to introduce or popularise hand-spinning so that cultivators may get requirements of their own by spinning and not from their wages?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMAD: I have already stated that Government did make an attempt before, and you please look at the answer. The matter will receive my consideration. I will look into it.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Imposition of collective fines on people of Bhanga, Faridpur.

31. Dr. PRATAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the total amount of collective fines imposed on the people of Bhanga in the district of Faridpur, during the years 1942-44;

(*b*) what is the amount realised up to date; and

(*c*) whether the Hon'ble Minister proposes to refund any portion of the collective fine realised from the innocent people of the Bhanga police-station?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) Rs. 15,000 was first imposed but later the amount was reduced to Rs. 10,000.

(*b*) Rs.9,970 against Rs.10,000 *plus* an amount of Rs.3,895-1 realised in excess.

(*c*) The amount realised in excess has been refunded excepting a sum of Rs.93-5-4 which could not be refunded as the assessees did not turn up. No portion of Rs.9,970 will be refunded.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to why an additional amount of Rs. 3,895-1 was collected?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Sir, it was collected by mistake and it is being refunded.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on what basis taxes were levied and on what basis the excess amount was collected?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how did such a mistake take place?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: There was a mistake in calculation by clerks.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to the last answer, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which official was responsible for this mistake?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the manner in which these collective fines have been collected? I mean by what process of law or otherwise had they been collected?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: These collective fines were imposed on them for committing certains acts in Bhanga and I think on the rates of union boards.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in enforcing collection any attachment took place or any other process of law?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: As far as I am aware no attachment took place.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state from whom collections were made by mistake? I want to know the names of the persons.

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the nature of the acts for which those collective fines were imposed?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: It is a very long thing. If you like I can read out the report of the District Magistrate.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not necessary to read out a long report.

Mr. K. NASARULLA: A group of persons collected armed with *lathis*, hockey sticks, iron rods, etc. They attempted to take out a procession in spite of the police warning. The police then had to resort to *lathi* charges and the situation was so bad that collective fines had to be imposed.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the collection by mistake took place exclusively in the case of members of one particular community?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Dr. PROTAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it was not a fact that after the occurrence at Bhanga all the Hindu houses were attacked by Muslims?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: There is no such information with the Government.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government made any enquiry as to whose houses had been attacked?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to how the officers ascertained that the persons who took out the procession were persons of the locality and not outsiders on whom collective fines were imposed?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: On the report of the District Magistrate that imposition was made.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of remitting the unrefunded sum of Rs. 93-5-4 to the assessees concerned?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Government is prepared to return it if you see the answer.

Grant to Mymensingh Municipality for repair of roads included in Army Schedule.

32. Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department aware—

(*i*) that all the main thoroughfares of the Mymensingh town have been heavily damaged and rendered almost impassable by the military traffic during the war-time;

(*ii*) that in conformity with the policy laid down in the Government of India, War Transport Department, letter No. S.2, dated the 23rd November, 1944, the Municipality of Mymensingh got one road from the Station Gate to the Military Hospital out of many of its damaged roads, scheduled for repairs, the cost whereof was to be borne partly by the India Government and partly by the Provincial Government;

(*iii*) that the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Local Self-Government Department, in his memorandum No. 1794(26)L.S.-G., dated the 3rd August, 1945, to the District Magistrate, Mymensingh, advised him to instruct the Mymensingh Municipality to undertake the work of repair to the scheduled road and apply for the necessary grant-in-aid; and

(*iv*) that the Mymensingh Municipality in their representations to the District Magistrate, Mymensingh, the Divisional Commissioner, Dacca, and the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Local Self-Government Department (No. 377, dated the 11th July, 1946), has applied to the Government for a grant of the sum of Rs.54,346 towards meeting the estimated cost of the repair work?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any action has been taken on the aforesaid representation of the Mymensingh Municipality to the Government of Bengal, Local Self-Government Department, for the required grant?

(*c*) If the answer to clause (*b*) is in the negative, does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of making the necessary grant without delay?

MINISTER in charge of the LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. Government is considering the grant of assistance to Local Bodies in this and similar cases, from available Development Funds.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: With reference to Development Funds in answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he means the Development Funds at present lying at the disposal of the Provincial Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: What question is it?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unstarred Question No. 32.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Will the honourable member please repeat his question?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you kindly repeat your question, Mr. Dhar?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The position is that last time when the question came up it was taken up by the Parliamentary Secretary and I thought that the Parliamentary Secretary had disposed of the question. I did not know that it was still pending for answer.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: On a point of order, Sir. The other day when I addressed as Parliamentary Secretary it was pointed out that I made a mistake and that I was wrong. Now the Hon'ble Minister is himself addressing as Parliamentary Secretary. (Laughter.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dhar, will you please repeat your question?

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he means by Development Funds the Development Funds at present lying at the disposal of the Provincial Government, or the Central Development Fund?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: By this we mean payment to be made from the Provincial Exchequer out of the money earmarked for Development projects and subsequent to this reply I may inform the honourable member that Government have decided to distribute 36 lakhs of rupees to local bodies for the purpose of repairing roads within their jurisdiction. This was the money which they will get out of the proceeds of the petrol tax. During the war as materials were not available for repairing roads the proceeds were not distributed to the local bodies. Therefore the money had accumulated and had amounted to 36 lakhs. A few months back Government decided that this money would be given to local bodies according to the formula which they used to follow previously.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us a precise idea as to the time by which this money will be granted to the municipality?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am sorry I am not able to give the exact time.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any specific allotment has been made of the amount to several district boards?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. A very complicated formula is to be adopted by Government in the matter of apportionment of district quotas and the same formula which used to be followed in the pre-war days will be followed again in the matter of allocation of district quotas.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us an idea of the formula that is going to be introduced?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The formula is a very complicated one, but I will give a rough idea as the honourable member desires.

The formula is that the amount collected from the district and then out of the motor vehicles tax and the amount spent by the local bodies for the purpose of maintaining these roads—these two factors will be taken into consideration *plus* the actual mileage within the jurisdiction of the local bodies. These are the three factors which will be taken into consideration in determining the quota of allotment to the local bodies.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many roads in different districts of Bengal have been damaged by the military?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: It should have been obvious to the an intelligent member like Mr. Chaudhury that it is not possible to give an answer to this question straightaway.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that repairs were undertaken in pursuance of a letter written by the Secretary to the Government of Bengal that money will be provided by the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The position is this. The Government of India at first agreed to pay compensation for damages to roads caused by military vehicles and in accordance with this decision the Government of India did pay compensation to certain local bodies so that the roads might be repaired. But the Government of India have subsequently resiled from that decision and at present they are not willing to

pay any amount for compensation for damages to roads caused by military vehicles. We are, however, in communication with the Government of India, and we think it would be wrong if the military authorities and the Government of India do not pay the cost of repairing roads. Then when the Hon'ble Chief Minister went to Delhi, he personally moved in the matter, but so far we have had no promise of sympathetic consideration of our proposal. We have not given the matter up and we are attempting to see that compensation is paid by the Government of India. But I cannot assure the honourable member that the Government of India will pay compensation. If the Government of India do not pay, we have already allotted 36 lakhs of rupees which will be sufficient, and even if that is not sufficient we will consider the question of each individual case sympathetically.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Nationalisation of Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation.

*87. **Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department be pleased to state whether arrangements have been made for exercising the option for taking over the Calcutta Electric Supply undertaking within the time stipulated by agreement some time ago?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that long and detailed arrangements will have to be made for the declaration of this option?

(*c*) Does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of assuring the members of this House that for no reason whatsoever there will be failure on the part of Government to exercise its option in the required manner within the stipulated time?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (as Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmad): (*a*) It has been decided that the option of purchase of the Calcutta and District Consolidated Electric Licence, 1946, should be exercised on 1st January, 1950, and that the necessary financial implications arising therefrom be examined.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No reason for failure is anticipated but it will be appreciated that final decision should await examination of the financial implications.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the exact meaning of the financial implications, as mentioned in answer (*c*)? Does it refer to financial position about purchase or the final decision about the date of purchase?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMAD: Practically the Cabinet has decided that the option of purchase will be exercised in January, 1950.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there has been any financial agreement between the Government and the Company regarding the compensation to be paid to the Electric Supply Corporation?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMAD: Yes.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the question of purchase is dependent upon the outcome of the financial examination that has been undertaken?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMAD: No, Sir. I have already stated that the decision has been made and notice has been given to the Electric Supply Corporation to exercise the option of purchase in January 1950.

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how much time Government expects to take on the examination of financial implications?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMAD: I do not think it will take much time.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the nature of the financial agreement entered into by the Government and the Company?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMAD: The Government of Bengal will have to pay a huge sum, 25 crores of rupees—but there will be an examination of the financial implications, and the amount may be a little less or a little more. But it is practically definite that we are going to take over the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the examination of financial implications involved has already begun and, if so, at what stage it is?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I have already answered that.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to whether, whatever may be the outcome of the financial implications, Government have finally decided to acquire the electric licenses as from January, 1950?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMAD: The answer is "Yes".

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in examining the financial implications referred to, Government is taking into consideration the total amount of capital invested and the total amount of profit accrued heretofore?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMAD: Yes, everything will be taken into consideration.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is considering the advisibility of setting down the principles on which the purchase price will be determined?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMAD: The whole thing has been examined, and I do not think I can add anything further.

Quota of cloth for Government employees outside Calcutta.

***88. Mr. RADHANATH DAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the quota of cloth sanctioned for the Government employees who draw ration from Government ration shop in places other than in Calcutta is $8\frac{1}{2}$ yards per head per annum?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the quota sanctioned for the public is greater than the quota mentioned for persons mentioned in (*a*)?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for this difference?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of raising their quota to 20 yards per head per annum?

MINISTER in charge of the CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Cofran): (*a*) 8¼ yards is the quantity of mill-made cloth estimated to be available to all classes of the population including Government servants.

(*b*) It is not a fact.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

(*d*) No.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that there exists a special reserve for issuing cloth out of that special reserve to Government servants?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Government is not aware.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that in many unions in the mofussil areas even 2½ yards of cloth is not available in the whole year?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Government has not received any such report.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether cloths of finer qualify are supplied to Government employees in the mofussil area?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Government has not received any such report.

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: In view of the answer given by the Hon'ble Minister that he is not in a position to say whether in the mofussil even 2½ yards of cloth is not supplied, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is prepared to hold an enquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: If definite allegations are made, certainly Government are prepared to make enquiry.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বলবেন কি যে এই প্রশ্নের (d) তে উত্তর দিয়েছেন "No" তিনি কি মনে করেন ২০ গজ কাপড় পাওয়া লোকের পক্ষে উপযুক্ত ? না তিনি তা ব্যবস্থা করতে পাচেছন না ?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: It is not possible because we are not getting sufficient supplies to give at the rate of 20 yards.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: যদি desirable হয় তাহলে 'No' বলবার অর্থ কি ?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Certainly it is desirable.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if this quota of 8¼ yards or 8½ yards, as the Hon'ble Minister has just said, includes any additional quota for special occasions such as funeral, marriage, etc.?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I have nothing further to add.

Lawyer Officers in the Civil Supplies Department.

***89. Dr. MD. MOZAMMEL HOSSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many lawyer officers are there at present in the Civil Supplies Department;

(*ii*) whether there was any necessity for recruitment of this type of

(*iii*) what was the standard or qualification required for these recruitments; and

(*iv*) whether the efficiency of this department has deteriorated due to these recruitments?

(*b*) If the answer to (*iv*) above is in (affirmative) the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government propose to take with regard to these posts?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: (*a*)(*i*) Forty.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) The candidates were to be practising members of the Calcutta High Court Bar—Advocates, Barristers, Pleaders, or Vakils—of not less than 3 years' standing and not above the age of 45. Candidates for posts carrying a pay of Rs.550 per mensem were in addition to be of the calibre of a Deputy Magistrate eligible to hold charge of a subdivision, those for posts carrying a pay of Rs.400 per mensem were to be of the calibre of a competent Deputy Magistrate, while those for posts carrying a pay of Rs.250 per mensem were to be of the calibre of a Senior Sub-Deputy Magistrate.

(*iv*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. RAJENDRA NATH SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Communal Ratio Rules have been followed in making these appointments?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: I want notice.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the difference between the calibre of a Deputy Magistrate and that of a competent Deputy Magistrate?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not allow this question.

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: With reference to answer (*a*)(*i*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the communal ratio between the Hindus, Muslims and Scheduled Castes?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: I have already said that it is impossible for me to give a reply offhand.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Out of 40, how many officers are Muslim?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: I have already replied.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why it was felt that lawyers should be appointed to these posts?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: It was decided by the 93 régime and possibly because it was considered that these persons would be more efficient for the discharge of these duties.

Mr. ABU TAIYAB MAZHARUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether under the present retrenchment scheme most of these officers are going to be retrenched?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: I have no such information up to now.

Khan Bahadur SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if these posts were advertised?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: I want notice.

Dr. MOZAMMEL HOSSAIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why there is so much difference between the pays—Rs. 400 and Rs. 250?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: According to merit.

Khan Bahadur SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the procedure which was followed in selecting these candidates?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: I would like to have notice.

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether all these 40 posts have gone to non-Muslims?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: I do not think so.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of these 40 gentlemen are criminal lawyers?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not allow this question.

Recruitment to posts in the Civil Supplies Department on police reports.

***90. Mr. JYOTI BASU:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state if it is a fact—

(*a*) that some forms containing the names of employees of the Civil Supplies Department were sent by Directorates under the Civil Supplies Department to the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, and also to the Superintendents of Police of different districts;

(*b*) that the Police Commissioner or the Superintendents of Police were asked by the different Directorates of Civil Supplies Department to send report through the Special Branch, Calcutta Police; and

(*c*) that political affiliations or activities of the employees are a ground either for recruitment or for discharge of the employees of the Civil Supplies Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: (*a*) Yes, in pursuance of the rule applying to all departments of Government that before employment in Government service, persons selected have their antecedents verified by police enquiry. The normal rule of deferring appointments until police reports are received, was departed from, to obviate delay in recruitment to posts urgently required to be filled up.

(*b*) No. Reports were asked from the Police Commissioner and from the Superintendents of Police..

(*c*) No. Where a person is provisionally recruited and the police verification report discloses antecedents which render the person unsuitable for employment under Government, he is discharged.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the antecedents that will make a person unsuitable for recruitment?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: His conduct, his revolutionary activities and so on.

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why police verification is required in such cases?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: I have already said, under Government rules it is necessary.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the ordinary procedure of obtaining previous report was departed from and if this procedure did not cause more dislocation in the department than the slight delay which would have been caused for obtaining previous report?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: Because it was urgently required that the posts should be filled up and therefore the ordinary procedure was departed from—I have already said that.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he does not consider it undesirable that a person appointed a few months ago would be discharged and a new person would be brought in and the department's efficiency thus hampered?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: The matter will receive our due consideration.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the activities of the Congress, the Muslim League and such other organisations will be taken as revolutionary activities?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: I do not think so.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he considers stealing and theft as revolutionary activities?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: No, Sir.

Rice supplied to the modified rationing areas in the district of Howrah.

***91. Mr. SUSHIL KUMAR BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the actual quantity of rice and paddy supplied to the modified rationing area in the district of Howrah from the 15th April to 15th July, 1946, union by union; and

(*ii*) the population of the entire area under the modified scheme of rationing in the district of Howrah, union by union, and also the percentage of the population benefited under the scheme?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of taking steps for the provision of foodgrains for the rest of the population who are not benefited under the scheme?

(*c*) If so, what steps he proposes to take in the matter?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the restriction imposed on the movement of rice from one thana to another in the district of Howrah has been a source of suffering of the people who are not benefited by the scheme in the matters of procurement of foodgrains?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when Government will be in a position to introduce complete rationing in, at least, deficit districts like Howrah?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: (*a*)(*i*) A statement showing the actual quantity of rice supplied from April to July, 1946, to the different unions of the Howrah district under modified rationing is placed on the Table.

(*ii*) The population of each union has been shown in the statement referred to in (*a*)(*i*) above. About 62 per cent. of the population has benefited under the scheme.

(*b*) No. This appears to be unnecessary for the present.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) There is no notification imposing an embargo on the export of rice and paddy from one thana of the district to another, but under the present Foodgrains Control Order, a licensee can trade only in the places which are specified as the "area of business" in his licence. Until recently, the area of business was normally limited to a thana, but a circular has issued doing away with this restriction to a large extent. A licensee in Howrah district is now entitled to trade in any non-rationed area of the district provided his business had formerly actually extended to such area before.

(*e*) Modified rationing is in force in the whole of the non-rationed areas of the district, and Government do not consider it necessary to introduce overall rationing in these areas.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a)(i) of starred question No. 91.

LIST OF THE UNIONS OF SADAR SUBDIVISION.

Names of unions.	Population.	Total quantity received during the period from April to July, 1946.
		Maunds.
Uttar Jhapardah	10,269	7,228
Dakshin Jhapardah	13,507	4,300
Kolora	11,700	2,500
Begri	12,458	2,700
Domjur	8,907	5,164
Narna	10,297	4,648
Makardah	9,770	2,500
Majiary	10,183	5,409
Bankra	11,998	3,700
Jagatballavpur	7,745	2,935
Bargachia	9,519	2,249
Pantihal	10,158	2,000
Sekrahati	8,945	2,400
Maju	8,775	3,610
Hatal Anantabati	10,824	3,000
Gobindapur	12,674	3,271
Pulgusti	11,748	4,510
Jagadishpur	10,066	4,693
Bally	10,271	4,858
Lillooah	12,941	5,253
Jagacha	13,038	2,213
Santragachi	13,495	7,052
Dhulagari	12,395	5,233
Andul	10,908	5,800
Dulley	15,494	5,262
Jhorhat	12,763	6,743
Sankrail	15,771	575
Manickpore	14,978	3,669
Nalpur	9,805	1,827
Banharishpur	9,874	1,600
Jejersha	15,493	4,900
Deulpur	15,715	5,340
Panchla	16,065	8,000
Beldubi	11,742	3,160

LIST OF THE UNIONS OF ULUBERIA SUBDIVISION.

Names of unions.	Population.	Total quantity of rice delivered from April to July, 1946.	
		Maunds.	Seers.
Jowargori	13,077	940	0
Baniban	16,372	1,406	10
Basudevpur	12,738	1,696	17
Chengail	23,973	1,180	0
Uluberia	21,321	2,198	0
Chandipur	16,345	1,721	0
Hatgacha	15,278	424	0
Kalinagore	14,493	1,572	0
Dhulasimla	14,974	947	0
Bauria	32,669	7,083	0
Kalyanpur	17,811	2,676	20
Bainan	13,699	3,538	20
Bangalpur	18,405	5,297	2
Bagnan	13,808	5,540	15
Mellock	14,351	2,439	20
Benapore	12,297	2,975	34
Bantul	11,793	2,951	34
Chandbag	12,331	2,494	5
Amardah	12,922	2,085	4
Beleri	12,690	1,392	35
Nabagram	11,860	1,627	20
Kharuberia	13,791	1,790	17
Kamalpur	12,631	157	10
Shyampur	14,276	1,114	17
Baneswarpur	16,462	125	0
Nakole	10,889	2,140	9
Sasaty	10,595	304	0
Dehimandalghat	13,044	577	0
Harishpur	15,162	5,142	20
Basantapur	13,779	3,148	23
Khosalpur	15,713	6,701	8
Rashpur	15,133	4,637	35
Thalia	10,962	3,849	32
Jhikra	13,307	1,480	0
Bhatora	11,639	1,660	0
Joypur	10,496	1,353	20
Khalna	11,655	1,286	0
Tajpur	11,879	1,077	25
Gazipur	12,240	3,082	3
Amta	13,830	4,100	17
Udang	10,511	2,770	25
Bandargacha	9,892	3,055	11
Khardah	9,148	2,434	5
Dehibhursita	9,522	....	
Udaynarayanpur	9,376	2,801	12
Singti	10,002	2,182	20
Debipur	9,997	843	20
Garbhabanipur	10,708	3,610	17

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is not a fact that there are cordoned areas within a district from which any movement of foodgrains is impossible?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: That is true; there is.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in view of his answer (*d*) if it is not a fact that these cordoned areas prevent even a licensee from bringing out foodstuff from one place to another?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: My answer (*d*) refers to the district of Howrah.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if only a licensee is allowed to take out foodgrains from one thana to another, and if a person who has no licence but who has a patch of land in another thana is permitted to bring foodgrains from that thana?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: Under the Foodgrains Licence Control Order only a licensee can trade, but there is no notification imposing any embargo on the export of rice and paddy from one thana to another.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enlighten us whether the circular referred to is applicable to other districts of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: Excepting the surplus districts where Government is procuring.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is not a fact that at a press conference recently held Government have decided to limit the areas of licence to thanas only?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: A decision has been taken no doubt very recently, because it has been found that a very large number of licenses have been issued and therefore there is difficulty in procuring.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in the scheme of modified rationing there is a division of people, namely, Class A, Class B and Class C?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: Yes; there is.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that because of this modified rationing, B and C class people suffer, because they have got no land?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: If B and C class people have no land, they must be included in A class.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: In view of the answer given to Mr. Stark's question, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to why the previous practice, which seems to be the present practice as well, was modified?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: Yes, because it was considered that if licences be modified to that extent probably there would be movements of foodgrains from one surplus pocket to another deficit pocket within the deficit districts.

Communal ratio in appointment of contractors for transport and labour supply.

***92. Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the present number of contractors who have been appointed for transport and labour supply in connection with the storage and ration shops in Calcutta and its suburbs including Howrah;

(*b*) how many of them are—

(*i*) Hindus—

(1) Bengalees and

(2) Non-Bengalees,

(*ii*) Muslims, and

(*iii* Scheduled Castes; and

(*c*) whether Communal Ratio Rule was followed in appointing these contractors? If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: (*a*) Twenty-two.

(*b*)(*i*) Seventeen.

(1) Six.

(2) Eleven.

(*ii*) Five.

(*iii*) Nil.

(*c*) Communal ratio could not be observed in appointing these contractors because Muslims (individuals or firms) with substantial financial backing did not come forward to work as such contractors when agreements were entered into on the rates fixed by this department. Of late, however, some suitable Muslims have submitted applications for appointment as contractors, and the question of communal ratio is being kept in view.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why preference was given to non-Bengali Hindus rather than to Bengali Hindus?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: There is no question of preference here.

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: With reference to his answer, viz.: "Of late, some suitable Muslims have submitted applications for appointment as contractors", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he expects that the Communal Ratio Rules will be given effect to?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: The Communal Ratio Rule is being attended to even now.

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: Just now the Hon'ble Minister has said that the Communal Ratio Rule is in force. Does he expect that the Communal Ratio Rule will be given effect to?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: I have said that the Communal Ratio Rule is being attended to even now.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: With reference to his answer (2)(*ii*) viz., five, how many of this number are Bengali Muslims?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: I would like to have notice.

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in making appointments the Hon'ble Minister invited tenders for the appointment of contractors and if so through what agencies?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: Off-hand it is not possible to give information as to whether any tender had been called or not.

Mr. BANKU BEHARI MANDAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no Scheduced Caste contractors has been appointed?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: Because no suitable Scheduled Caste candidate was probably available.

Application for foodgrain licence by one Accorilal Singha, Simlagarh, Hooghly.

***93. Mr. RADHANATH DAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether a foodgrain licence was issued on 26th November, 1942, under the name of one Accorilal Singha, Simlagarh, the licence No. being 204;

(*ii*) whether an application for renewal of the licence was made in April, 1946, through the Civil Supply Inspector of Panduah;

(*iii*) whether the licence was reserved; and

(*iv*) if not, why not?

(*b*) Who is the final authority of issuing such licence?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: (*a*)(*i*) Licence No. 204 under Foodgrains Control Order, 1942, was issued on the 26th November, 1942, in the name of Babu Accorilal Singha for Sridhar Rice Mills of Simlagarh Station.

(*ii*) An application, dated the 13th December, 1945, in Form "B" for a licence for dealing in rice and paddy under the Bengal Foodgrains Control Order, 1945, was received on the 18th December, 1945 (not April), direct by the Subdivisional Controller of Civil Supplies, Hooghly Sadar, from the said Babu Accorilal Singha and not through the Inspector of Civil Supplies, Panduah.

(*iii*) I am not quite clear what the honourable member means by "reserved".

A new licence under the Foodgrains Control Order was not issued to him.

(*iv*) A licence was originally issued to him to enable him to store or purchase paddy for his rice mill known as Sreedharji Rice Mill. He, however, subsequently sold his machine to Messrs. Joveri & Co. of 12C, Clive Row, Calcutta, and it was taken over by the party on the 23rd October, 1945. The Assistant Regional Controller of Procurement, Howrah-Hooghly, did not therefore recommend issue of a new licence to him under the Foodgrains Control Order, 1945, and no licence was accordingly issued by the Subdivisional Controller of Civil Supplies.

(*b*) Licences for rice and paddy in procurement areas are issued by the Subdivisional Controller on the recommendation of the Assistant Regional Controller of Procurement.

Mr. RADHANATH DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the licensee, Babu Accorilal Sinha, will be allowed to continue the licence for 1943-44?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: I ask for notice.

Procurement of rice through chief agents.

***94. Mr. RATANLAL BRAHMAN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how much rice and paddy have been bought during the first five months of the current year through the chief agents of the Government of Bengal;

(*b*) whether he is aware that the chief agents instead of paying the producers the price which the Government had fixed up paid them much less on many occasions without disclosing to the Government that they had done so;

(*c*) whether he is aware of the public agitation that is going on among different classes of the people demanding that the system of procurement through these chief agents be abandoned in favour of direct Government procurement; and

(*d*) whether he proposes to enquire into the activities and operations of these chief agents through a competent non-official enquiry committee composed of leaders of public opinion and of the All-Bengal Kishan Sabha?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: (*a*) Rice—5,883,901 maunds. Paddy—529,577 maunds.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Government is not aware of any public agitation against the system of procurement through chief agents. Following the recommendations of the Famine Enquiry Commission, however, with effect from January 1st, 1947, procurement through chief agents has been stopped and Government has assumed full responsibilities for procurement directly through its own officers.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Mr. RAJENDRA NATH SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government has appointed sub-agents to procure rice and paddy?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: No.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Food Commissioner to the Government of Bengal repeatedly disclosed in different Press conferences that Government has been buying through chief agents at a rate much lower than the maximum rate?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: No.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the percentage of discount or loss that the sellers have to concede to chief agents before they sell their rice?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: I ask for notice.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us an idea of the detailed procurement scheme that is now being followed?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not allow this question, for it is not possible to give a detailed account of the procurement scheme.

Food crisis in Kishoreganj subdivision.

***95. Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether there is acute food crisis in Kishoreganj subdivision of Mymensingh district;

(*ii*) whether the Kishoreganj subdivision has been declared a deficit area; and

(*iii*) if so, what steps the Government have taken to meet the deficit in that area?

(*b*) Is it a fact that quota of foodgrains for Kishoreganj for the month of May, 1946, has not yet reached to the place?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

(*d*) Is it a fact that with the withdrawal of cordoning, the little foodgrains that were in the said subdivision are being exported to Dacca and Tippera districts?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) be in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the action is contrary to the spirit of the order passed for withdrawing the cordon?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: (*a*)(*i*) There has been a shortage of foodgrains in the Kishoreganj subdivision. The average retail price of rice in the subdivision was Rs.13 per maund on the 22nd and the 29th May and Rs.14 on the 5th June. The price then rose to Rs.20 but came down to Rs.18 on the 3rd July and on the 17th July. The situation cannot therefore be described as an acute food crisis.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) Distribution of rice and paddy under modified rationing has been introduced all over the subdivision. During the three months April, May and June 125,843 maunds in terms of rice were issued in the subdivision.

(*b*) The subdivision received 6,407 maunds of rice and 118,755 maunds of paddy during the month of May.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) Till the end of 1945 the whole of the Mymensingh district including the Kishoreganj subdivision was cordoned. Kishoreganj was excluded from the cordon from 20th December, 1945, because it was not a procurement area. It is possible that after the exclusion of Kishoreganj from the cordon some foodgrains from there have moved to the deficit areas of Dacca and Tippera.

(*e*) No. The only justification for cordoning an area is the assistance it provides to procurement within the area.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: In view of the answer contained in (*a*)(*i*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the price of rice in Kishoreganj during that time was Rs. 35 per maund?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: No.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what in his opinion is the price of rice that will bring in a crisis?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: That is a matter of opinion, Sir, into which I do not want to enter.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the public of Kishoreganj sent a representation to the department concerned regarding the high price of rice and paddy during that period?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: Might have been, but I am not aware of that.

Famine conditions in Bengal.

*96. **Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that panic, serious distress and almost famine conditions prevail in many parts of Bengal;

(*b*) whether such panic, distress and famine conditions began to appear from the middle of May last, when the price of rice began to soar from Rs.19 and Rs.20 a maund;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that such panic and distress lessened when and wherever distribution of paddy and rice even at modified rationing scheme was started and continued regularly;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that in almost all places, distribution of rice and paddy even at modified rationing scheme could not be carried on regularly for want of rice with the local wholesale dealers and distributors;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that wholesale dealers and distributors were reluctant to bring rice from Government godowns as they considered such transaction less profitable than investing money in other ways;

(*f*) whether as a result of irregularity and uncertainty of distribution, the price of paddy and rice increased and panic and famine conditions began to reappear in the distressed areas; and

(*g*) whether Government propose to start godowns immediately in every thana of distressed areas so that distributors may easily take rice from these godowns for distribution among the people?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: (*a*) Shortage of foodstuffs and consequent hardship undoubtedly existed in certain parts of Bengal.

(*b*) The price of rice in certain areas started rising in the latter part of February, 1946.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Not as a general case. In a few areas, however, wholesalers have shown some reluctance in taking up supplies. Where their reluctance was due to reasonable grounds, e.g., high transport charges involved, arrangements were made either to assist them with departmental transport or to reimburse them for a part of their transport charges.

(*f*) The average price of rice in the deficit areas continued to rise till the middle of June since when it has fallen by about 14 annas per maund. Attempts have been made to maintain supplies in all deficit areas and except perhaps in a few cases, where there were temporary difficulties, there has been no general failure of supplies.

(*g*) Government have about two hundred storage centres where stocks are held for distribution. In addition stocks are often released for consumption direct from procurement storage centres. Additional distribution storage centres have been set up in deficit areas as and when necessary and new storage centres will be set up wherever necessary.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that as a result of cordoning the surplus districts the neighbouring deficit districts and areas suffer for want of paddy and rice?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: It must be the necessary consequence of cordoning because if it is necessary to cordon off certain surplus districts for procurement, it is for the purpose of supplying from the procured stocks the requirements of the deficit areas. Therefore it cannot be said that the deficit areas suffer as a result of such cordoning.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next question.

Point of privilege.

Mr. AMIX[illegible]A CHANDRA ADHIKARI: On a point of privilege, Sir. We feel that we are not given adequate time for putting supplementary questions.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not think that is a question of privilege. I called the next question when I saw there was nobody rising up for putting supplementary questions. Unless you stand up and draw my attention I am helpless in the matter.

Khasmahal lands in Chittagong.

*97. **Mr. AHMED KABIR CHOWDHURY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Land and Land Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the income from the *khasmahal* lands in the district of Chittagong;

(*b*) what are the total number of officers under *khasmahal* in Chittagong and what are their nationality and rank;

(*c*) what steps the Government has taken to protect the cultivable *khasmahal* land from saline water on the coast of Bay of Bengal;

(*d*) how many acres of land are barren, uncultivated and *khesh* in the above area;

(*e*) how many *jote*, *taluk* and any other lease lands on account of non-payment of rent have been purchased by Government in the year 1945-46 and how many settled up;

(*f*) what action Government proposes to take to make the *khesh* land arable;

(*g*) what is the underlying principle for keeping a vast cultivable land covered with sea weeds only as reserved forest on the Bay of Bengal coast;

(*h*) whether the Government contemplates settling those reserved forest lands to landless cultivators; if so, when;

(*i*) what is the discretionary amount placed under *khasmahal* officers for distribution in different thanas in the district of Chittagong;

(*j*) what action the Government takes to improve the *khasmahal* lands; and

(*k*) whether the Government contemplates taking some scientific measure to improve the said lands in pursuance of their Grow-More-Food policy?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlur Rahman): (*a*) Rental demand for 1945-46—Rs. 11,91,763.

(*b*) Seven officers of whom one is *khasmahal* officer who is a Muslim and 6 *khas* tahsilars—4 Muslims and 2 Hindus.

(*c*) Government have raised necessary embankments and maintain them. There are altogether 82 miles of *khasmahal* embankments in the district.

(*d*) There are about 7,000 acres of undeveloped and sandy lands lying outside the embankment and within the spill area not yet fit for cultivation.

(*e*) Two thousand five hundred and forty-two *jotes* and *taluks* were purchased; 1,059 have since been settled.

(*f*) Such lands are kept exposed by removing embankments for a certain period so as to enrich them by the deposit of silt: remission of rent to the affected tenants is granted for the period.

(*g*) and (*h*) Lands are generally kept as reserved forests along the coast with a view to—

(*i*) prevent premature reclamation of cultivable lands until they have been sufficiently elevated by the deposit of silt,

(*ii*) provide grazing ground for the cattle of the surrounding villages, and

(*iii*) maintain a cheap supply of timber, firewood for domestic consumption and specially for manufacture of salt, and other forest products to meet the requirements of the local agricultural people.

Protected forest blocks are however released for settlement with cultivators if it is found that such blocks are more suitable for growing food crops than forest produce.

(*i*) Nil.

(*j*) Construction of embankments and sluice boxes, re-excavation of *khals* and tanks, supply of improved seeds and manures, agricultural demonstrations, etc.

(*k*) Yes.

Mr. AHMED KABIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the name of the Khas Mahal Officer?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I am sorry I have not the name with me, but this much I can tell you that the Khas Mahal Officer was a Hindu. A Muslim was posted there. The answer was drafted in anticipation of a new Muslim officer being posted there but he has not yet joined there.

Mr. FAZLUL QADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who bears the cost of embankment—whether the cost is realised from the tenants?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have to ask for notice.

Mr. FAZLUL QADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is prepared to deforest Rampur and Ringham forest and have a colony like Badarkhali co-operative colony?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No specific area has been mentioned in the question, so I am unable to answer about any particular area.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what scientific measures Government are taking to improve the said lands in pursuance of Grow More Food policy, arising out of (*k*)?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: They are distributing manures, etc.

Khas estates or lots in Sunderbans area.

***98. Mr. HEM CHANDRA NASKER:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Land and Land Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many estates or lots the Government have in *khas* possession in the Sunderbans area;
(*b*) what are the numbers thereof;
(*c*) what is the area of each of those estates;
(*d*) what is the gross income from each of them;
(*e*) what is the cost of protection of each of them for purpose of cultivation;
(*f*) what is the total cost of management of each of them;
(*g*) what is the net income of the Government per *bigha* from each of them; and
(*h*) what is the figure of net profit per *bigha* in Sunderbans as disclosed by Agricultural Income Tax Assessment for lots held by private persons?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlur Rahman): (*a*) to (*g*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*h*) Calculation of net profit per *bigha* of cultivated lands in the Sunderbans for *khas* lands held by private persons which yield only one crop of winter paddy, varies in each year according to conditions and circumstances and depends on various factors so far as assessment for Bengal Agricultural Income Tax is concerned. Generally, however, the assessment for 1944-45 on the income of 1943-44, disclosed an average net profit for *khas* lands of private persons varying from Rs.25 to Rs.30 per *bigha*.

Statement referred to in reply to clauses (a) to (g) of starred question No. 98.

Serial No.	Number of estate.	Area in acres.	Gross annual rental demand.	Average cost of protection per annum.	Average annual cost of management.	Average annual net income per *bigha*.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.
24-PARGANAS.						
1	3024	2,978·98	11,850	1,527		0 10 0
2	2931	3,779·98	20,190	3,072		1 3 0
3	2968	2,687·45	7,611	1,300		0 5 0
4	2928	2,966·75	8,392	1,012		0 6 0
5	3137	2,097·45	9,624	5,729	27,304	0 1 0
6	3070	2,964·46	13,890	4,917		0 9 0
7	3071	4,305·35	21,035	7,024		0 12 0
8	2964	1,058·00	6,412	5,078		Nil
9	2692	6,023·16	26,279	17,652	4,983	0 4 5
10	1467	1,941·10	8,787	3,137	2,267	0 7 9
BAKARGANG.						
1	4545	2,857	10,560			
2	4580	3,682	11,799			
3	4581	4,282	14,759			
4	4600	8,099	30,229			
5	4771	5,948	17,005			
6	4865	6,991	19,281			
7	5092	1,020	1,760			
8	6052	7,454	22,456			
9	4526	4,486	11,994	42,000	23,760	0 14 7
10	4959	10,427	25,959			
11	6300	7,931	18,832			
12	6321	5,011	10,345			
13	6623	3,213	9,151			
14	4583	5,088	12,604			
15	4958	14,134	24,912			
16	4973	3,399	9,167			
17	6450	6,027	13,963			

Serial No.	Number of estate.	Area in acres.	Gross annual rental demand.	Average cost of protection per annum.	Average annual cost of management.	Average annual net income per *bigha*.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.
			KHULNA.			
1	779	789·48	1,840		184	0 12 0
2	785	196·44	249		25	0 8 8
3	797(B)	1,469·46	4,086		409	0 13 4
4	799	679·49	1,272		128	0 9 0
5	801	803·21	2,980		298	1 0 8
6	804	266·17	1,171		117	1 5 3
7	806	2·65	10-13		1	1 1 0
8	808	1,108·60	1,726		172	0 7 4
9	812	626·72	1,040		106	1 7 0
10	821	400·33	945		95	0 11 4
11	830	35·84	92		9	0 12 0
12	831	610·47	1,296		120	0 10 0
13	832	504·48	1,107		110	0 8 8
14	834	382·86	576		57	0 7 0
15	835	14·84	21-6		2	0 6 8
16	836	85·89	281		28	0 15 8
17	846	659·24	2,708		270	1 3 8
18	853	372·75	613		61	0 7 8
19	855	35·84	92		9	0 12 0
20	856	1,804·32	6,617		661	1 1 4
21	857	212·35	447		44	0 10 0
22	859	87·83	126	1,600	12	0 6 10
23	877	4,075·30	10,406		1,040	0 12 0
24	881	162·04	467		46	0 13 8
25	886	272·44	599		60	0 10 6
26	890	632·08	7,627		760	0 10 0
27	891	315·21	964		96	0 15 4
28	892	316·52	884		88	0 13 4
29	893	366·29	1,041		104	0 13 4
30	896	265·55	540		54	0 9 4
31	903	80·26	291		29	1 1 4
32	911	707·76	2,800		280	1 2 8
33	932	332·51	638		63	0 9 0
34	935	159·19	311		31	0 9 4
35	939	190·93	416		42	0 10 4
36	949	3,053·61	5,942		594	0 9 4
37	951	29·04	72		7	0 11 8
38	953	102·81	238		23	0 11 0
39	954	528·73	1,769		176	1 0 0
40	971	1,757·81	2,812		281	0 7 4
41	982	78·04	356		35	1 5 3
42	984	3,483·94	6,019		601	0 8 0

Khan Bahadur SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the nature of improvement Government have made in the Backerganj Sunderbans?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I do not know how it arises out of this present question.

Khan Bahadur SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government contemplate to make improvement in the Backerganj Sunderbans in the paddy area?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The informations are all given in details. I do not think any question of improvement arises just out of this question.

Khan Bahadur SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: I find that so much money is being spent for the management of Sunderbans area. My question is whether Government contemplate to make any improvement?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Government certainly contemplate to make improvement.

Khan Bahadur SYED MUHAMMAD AFZAL: In what way?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I am unable to discuss details.

Utilisation of "Fatrar Char" for grazing purposes.

*99. **Mr. SATINDRA NATH SEN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Land and Land Revenue Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that a large number of the Burmese settlers from Arakan established their first colony in the Sundarbans area of the Patuakhali subdivision of the Bakarganj district about 150 years ago;

(*ii*) that since the beginning of the settlement the Mogh (as the Arakanese settlers are called) and the Muslim peasantry of the Amtoli, Khepupara, Barguna and Galachipa police-stations had been using the "Tangra Giri Island", commonly known as "Fatrar Char" as a grazing ground on an annual rent of Re.1 per buffalo;

(*iii*) that there is no other substitute for the aforesaid *char* as a pasture land for thousands of bullocks and buffaloes during September and October when the entire main land remains submerged under water and covered with *aman* crops; and

(*iv*) that last year an order was promulgated by the appropriate authorities prohibiting the peasants from sending their cattle to the abovementioned *char*?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*iv*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of withdrawing the order giving the peasants their old grazing right?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of selecting alternative grazing grounds within their easy reach and till then permit the peasants to use the "Fatrar Char" for grazing purposes?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlur Rahman): (*a*) (*i*) Yes, it is reported to be so.

(*ii*) Grazing settlements were made for some time in the accretions to the south of the *char*.

(*iii*), (*b*) and (*c*) The matter is under consideration.

(*iv*) Yes.

Clerks in Official Receiver's Office.

*100. **Dr. ABDUL AHAD:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of Hindu and Muslim clerks in the Official Receiver's office; and

(*ii*) the number of permanent Muslim staff there?

(*b*) If there is no Muslim staff, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Nagendra Narayan Roy):

(*a*) (*i*) Permanent 11—

Hindu 10.

Muslim 1 (typist).

Temporary 14—

Hindu 7.

Muslim 7.

(*ii*) Permanent Muslim 1.

(*b*) The staff was formerly under the administrative control of the High Court. All appointments are being made strictly according to the Communal Ratio Rules since the office was taken over by Government after the passing of the Calcutta Official Receiver's Act.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the date when the department was taken over by the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: Since April, 1939.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বলবেন কি তিনি হিন্দুদের যে সংখ্যা দিয়েছেন তার মধ্যে কতজন তপশীলভুক্ত জাতি ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: I want notice.

Repair of certain sections of Ajoy embankment in Birbhum.

*101. **Mr. NISHAPATI MAJHI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the sections of Ajoy embankment which run along the villages of Raipur, Hinja, Gitagram, Haripur and Mangalpur in the district of Birbhum have been in a state of considerable disrepair; and

(*ii*) whether he is aware of the apprehension felt in the district that unless repair work is speedily undertaken, about a hundred thousand bighas of cultivated land and 60 inhabited villages will be destroyed during the ensuing flood season?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any repair work has been undertaken in the embankment near Gitagram with a view to reclaim the six thousand bighas of cultivated land which had been covered with sand as a result of last year's flood?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the nature and extent of such work?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give some details about the repair work in the embankment in other villages mentioned in (*a*)(*i*)?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what has become of the public subscriptions amounting to Rs.11,500 in all which were made over to the authorities at Birbhum district as contributions of the local inhabitants towards the partial cost of repair of the Ajoy embankment within the last two years?

MINISTER in charge of the IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukherjea): (*a*) (*i*) The embankment referred to is a private zamindary embankment. The zamindars concerned are responsible for its maintenance.

(*ii*) The district authorities were aware of the situation and took action in the matter.

(*b*) and (*c*) Repair work in the form of strengthening and raising the Gitagram embankment was undertaken by the local committee formed for the purpose. The amount spent is about Rs.1,994.

(*d*) The following is a statement showing the extent of work done at the different centres:—

Name of Centre.	Expenditure.
	Rs.
Jahanabad-Mangalpur	... 5,237
Gheedah	... 8,365
Haripur	... 3,492
Heneya	... 3,497
Deoli	... 1,107

In October last the embankment was again breached by the heavy flood in the Ajoy. These breaches have been repaired.

(*e*) In May, 1943, public subscriptions amounting to Rs.12,701-6-6 and Rs.2,455-15 were raised for the repair and maintenance of the Gitagram and the Jahanabad-Mangalpur embankment respectively. Local committees were formed for administering these two funds and the amounts were placed at the disposal of the District Board for repairing the embankments under the test relief system. A sum of Rs.2,701-6-6 on account of the Gitagram embankment and Rs.455-15 on account of the Jahanabad-Mangalpur embankment were refunded to the local committees and are in deposit with the Bolpur Branch of the Pioneer Bank Ltd.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the President of the local committee was the Subdivisional Officer himself and if it is a fact that Rs. 2,000 and odd was deposited on behalf of the zemindar which has not yet been refunded?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: The answer to the first part is in the affirmative; as regards the latter part, I want notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to answer contained in (*a*)(*ii*) to the effect that the district authorities were aware of the situation and took action in the matter, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in what particulars action was taken?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: The answer is quite simple. Embankments were repaired.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it was a fact that an honourable member of this House as also the zemindars moved the Government before the breach occurred and drew the attention of the Government that the money that was lying with the Subdivisional Officer might be utilized before the breach occurred?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: I have no information now. I can enquire and let the honourable member know.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government consider the desirability of taking over these embankments from the zemindars because the people had been suffering from flood havocs every year?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Government is considering the desirability of not only taking over the embankments but the zemindaries as well.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is considering the desirability of taking steps to realise the cost of repairs from the zemindar himself?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: In the different cases the situation varies. There are some estates where the zemindars are responsible while there are others where Government is in charge of embankments.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of realising this amount *pro rata* from the Government and the zemindar where due?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: As per agreement, as I have already stated.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Message.

Secretary read the following messages received from the Bengal Legislative Council:—

(1) "That the concurrence of the Bengal Legislative Assembly be asked to the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy (Temporary Provisions) Extending Bill, 1947, as passed by the Bengal Legislative Council at its meeting held on the 11th February, 1947."

(2) "That the concurrence of the Bengal Legislative Assembly be asked to the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1947, as passed by the Bengal Legislative Council at its meeting held on the 12th February, 1947."

General discussion of the Budget.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I would like to bring to your notice once again that the proceedings of the last Budget Session have not yet been made available to members. I hope, Sir, you will see to it that they are circulated to members before the Demands for Grants are placed before this House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that the position of the finances of Bengal as revealed in the statement of accounts submitted by the Hon'ble Finance Minister is very disquieting has been acknowledged by him. In fact it is so grave that the Finance Minister was forced to append a last minute apologia to the printed budget statement with a view to explain—I would rather say in an effort to explain away—the deplorable plight to which the finances of this province have been reduced. In framing this addendum I am afraid, Sir, our youthful Finance Minister in his youthful enthusiasm has elected to rush in into a sphere where, as the saying goes, angels would have feared to tread. For, in the few incursions he has made into the Niemeyer Report he has been guilty of not a few unfortunate instances of incorrect references and terminological inexactitudes. To advert to but a few of these instances, No. 1, Sir Otto Niemeyer was not actuated primarily or solely by the consideration of stability and solvency of the Centre in making his award, although that consideration was continuously in his mind. The considerations that actuated him were stated by him to be as follows: (1) the needs of the province, and (2) the extent to which, consistent with the financial stability of the Centre, the Centre could offer assistance to the provinces.

No. 2, the contention of the Finance Minister that the allocation of 20 per cent. of the divisible income-tax pool to both Bengal and Bombay in spite of the fact that Bengal's population is thrice that of Bombay is unfair, is misleading. The Hon'ble Finance Minister may be interested to know

that Bombay vehemently protested against what she called this "unfair allocation" on the ground that her contribution to the income-tax pool was very much larger than that of Bengal. Faced with such conflicting claims, Sir Otto Niemeyer based his calculations partly on residence and partly on population—a basis which, under the circumstances, did not appear to be unfair.

No. 3 and the most misleading and pernicious of these inaccuracies—I do not know whether it was intentional—was the following statement of the Finance Minister: "From Bengal's point of view the Niemeyer Award made no attempt whatever to rectify the accumulated deficiencies of pre-Autonomy years. She was given 75 lakhs by way of immediate assistance". That is both untrue and misleading. The financial assistance which Sir Otto Niemeyer had offered to Bengal was an amount of Rs. 75 lakhs per annum—not for one particular year but for all future years made up as follows: (*a*) a nett annual saving of Rs. 33 lakhs as the result of the cancellation of all the debts amounting to nearly Rs. 9 crores that Bengal owed to the Centre at the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy; (*b*) Rs. 42 lakhs representing an additional 12½ per cent. of the jute export duty.

It may interest honourable members to know that neither Bombay nor Madras obtained anything whatsoever out of the Niemeyer Award. Bombay did not even get her share of the duty on cotton which she claimed on the analogy of the jute duty which was allowed to Bengal. The Finance Minister, Sir, had wanted to make of Sir Otto Niemeyer a convenient scapegoat for the criminal inefficiency and corruption and bungling of successive Muslim League Governments of Bengal. But I am afraid Sir Otto Niemeyer, although ungallantly but obstinately, refuses to oblige our young Finance Minister. That is the first point that I want to make out.

Now let us for one moment assume that the villain of the story of Bengal's gradual ruination is the Niemeyer Award, although that is not true. If the Niemeyer Award is scrapped what would have happened. Even on the assumption that Bengal contributes 20 per cent. to the divisible income-tax pool if Bengal were to obtain the whole of the jute export duty and her share of the income-tax, the additional amount that would be available to Bengal would have been a little over Rs. 7 crores in 1946-47 and about Rs. 9½ crores in 1947-48. That amount, colossal as it may appear, would have been quite inadequate to cover or to bridge the yawning gap between revenue and expenditure, for the deficit in 1946-47 is over Rs. 13 crores and that for 1947-48 really over Rs. 12 crores. Honourable members may be interested to know that the normal revenues of the province in pre-war days was anything between Rs. 12 and Rs. 14 crores—a figure at which the current annual budget deficit stands. But the point that I want to make out is this. Even if the Niemeyer Award was scrapped, the Finance Minister's difficulties and worries would not be over. That is the second point that I want to make out.

While on the subject of budget deficits it may interest honourable members to know that for nine years beginning with the introduction of Provincial Autonomy right up to 1945-46 there was a total deficit of about 18 crores of rupees.

Significantly enough the assistance that Bengal has obtained either on account of famine relief or by way of subvention from the Centre has been an amount equal to 18 crores of rupees, which is exclusive of the amount that Bengal has obtained for Development expenditure. Thus right up to 1945-46 Bengal has been able to make her both ends meet with the very generous assistance that she has obtained from the much-maligned Centre.

Before I analyse the causes of Bengal's sad financial plight, I should like to draw your attention to another disquieting feature of the Budget. Although revenue and expenditure have increased from year to year, the

share allotted to social services does not register anything but a proportionate increase. Our revenue expenditure has increased from 12 crores in 1937-38 to 42 crores in 1947-48, exclusive of Development expenditure. In the circumstances one would have expected that a much larger share than a mere proportionate increase would have been allotted to social services. But that has not happened. That is the third point that I want to make out.

I come now, Sir, to the causes that are responsible for the decay in the financial structure of Bengal. I have already stated that the responsibility cannot be foisted upon the Niemeyer Award, nor can the responsibility for this rot be attributed, as the Finance Minister has tried to, to the war that is just over. Bengal has not alone had to bear the full brunt of inflationary forces. The evil effects of inflation have been the common experience of all the States and provinces of India. Nor does the contention of the Finance Minister that Bengal was a major base of operation in the East, provide an answer to Bengal's financial difficulties. Assam was very much more an advance base on whose soil even some land fighting took place; but Assam has emerged from the ravages of war not only with her finances intact, but even after setting apart a handsome amount towards a Development Fund. Our Finance Minister instead of desperately groping everywhere outside to discover some plea or pleas to explain away his financial straits, would have done very much better to have turned his vision inward to find out what the pursuit of the policy of the party to which he belongs, has cost Bengal. We should have prepared an estimate of what corruption and inefficiency in administration due to and encouraged by the distribution of party patronage, and communal tension and conflict fomented in furtherance of party objectives, have cost Bengal. Some idea, some imperfect idea, of the cost the honourable members may have by reference to some demand heads, namely, "29—Police", "54—Famine", "57—Miscellaneous" and "63 Extraordinary Charges in India". An examination of the Police, Famine and Miscellaneous Demands provide some idea of the cost which the deliberate policy of embittering communal relations and provoking communal disturbances, have entailed; while some idea of the cost of inefficiency and corruption may be obtained by a study of the demand for "Extraordinary Charges in India". It may interest honourable members to know that these four items taken together accounted for only 17 per cent. of the expenditure in 1940-41, but in 1946-47 they amount to 25 crores and represent 56 per cent. of the revenue expenditure. I would ask honourable members to remember that while expenditure on social services has only just proportionately increased, the expenditure under these four demand heads has three times more than proportionately increased. I have tried, Sir, to frame an estimate of what the pursuit of Government's policy of fomenting communal bitterness may have cost Bengal, say, in 1946-47. The estimate is, of course, very tentative, but it may be of interest to honourable members and it is as follows:—

Famine relief: 550 lakhs Expenditure in connection with riots: 238 lakhs. Additional expenditure according to my calculation under the head "Police" on account of communal tension: 50 lakhs. Total 838 lakhs. Again under the head "Extraordinary Charges in India" out of an expenditure of 10 crores in 1946-47 nothing less than 6 to 7 crores is accounted for inefficiency, corruption and jobbery. Thus the total monetary cost to Bengal of the Government's suicidal communal policy amount to anything between 14 and 16 crores of rupees.

Herein lies the root cause of Bengal's financial malady and the yawning gaps between revenue and expenditure. If this expenditure could have been avoided, as it should have been, Bengal like most of the other provinces would also have had surplus budget. That is the fourth and the last point, Sir, that I want to make out.

While on the subject of the expenditure under the four demand heads I have already referred to, I would respectfully urge the Finance Minister to make a careful study of the expenditure under those heads in some other provinces and try to find an answer to the question as to why they are so excessively high in Bengal. The communal problem is an All-India problem and is not confined to Bengal alone. Why is it then that it costs to Bengal is so much heavier and so proportionately higher? The Civil Supplies Directorate and a Rationing Department, again, are not the monopoly of Bengal. They are common to all other provinces. Why is it then that their cost to Bengal is so much heavier and so disproportionately higher. I would ask the Hon'ble Finance Minister to throw some light on these simple questions which so much baffle and puzzle ordinary members like us. (At this stage the blue light was lit.) Sir, if you had not been anxious to put up the red or blue light against me, I would have tried to draw a comparative picture of the finances of Bengal with those of some other provinces. I would also have referred to some of the salient features of the Budget and in particular to the planless and wasteful expenditure in connection with the Development projects. But under the circumstances I shall content myself by saying that the primary cause of Bengal's sad financial plight is neither the Nieyemier Award, nor war inflation, nor the fact that Bengal has been a major base of operation in the East. The primary reason why Bengal appears to be firmly set on the road to financial ruination with a beggar's bowl in her hand is the narrow and short-sighted communal policy pursued by the Government. Unless that evil is eradicated there is nothing that can save Bengal from financial collapse. Unless our revenues can be expanded and properly husbanded and unless all unnecessary expenditure can be ruthlessly eschewed and all revenues fruitfully utilised, some members of the Muslim League Party and their supporters and henchmen to whatever party or community they may belong may wield large powers and even enjoy great opulence, but all that will have been purchased at the cost of the poverty and the misery of the masses.

Sir, so far as we on this side of the House are concerned it is undoubtedly galling and even pathetic that we must be impotent spectators of the rake's mad but determined race towards financial bankruptcy although we are all vitally interested in the process, but that appears to be the lot that is allotted to us. What amazes me and passes my comprehension, Sir, is the degree of complacency, gullibility and obtuseness exhibited by my freinds opposite who will remain contentedly blind to the very dark and disastrous future they are bequeathing to their own sons and grandsons.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I believe if an impartial critic were to come to Bengal today and examine the provisions of the budget he will not hesitate to assert that the budget after all reflects the mind and ways of the Bengal Muslim League Ministry, which, barring a short interval of about a couple of years, has ruled over the destinies of this province since 1937. I agree entirely with my honourable friend who preceded me when he analysed the main causes which have led to the financial ruin of this great and once prosperous province of Bengal, the common motherland of millions of Hindus and Muslims for generations past.

Sir, if we analyse the events that have led to the present catastrophe, the blame will go one hundred per cent. to the Ministry which has been in office which has not only remained soaked in communalism but has been corrupt, inefficient, extravagant and thoughtless of the welfare of the province as a whole. I would ask my friends opposite in particular to remember that it is not the much-maligned Hindu who has been responsible for the administration of this province since 1937. The time has now come for them to examine how they have behaved since 1937 (and have helped to ruin Bengal).

Mr. Ghose referred to the Niemeyer Award. If we go back to 1937-38 when the Provincial Autonomy started we find that next year the Bengal Government presented a budget of 12 crores and 70 lakhs through its first Finance Minister, Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar, which was a balanced budget. At that time 9 crores of rupees, which were the dues and debts owing to the Government of India, were condoned and extra sources of revenue were allowed to the province of Bengal. Compare that figure of 12 crores and 76 lakhs of rupees to 46 crores of rupees which is your budget estimate in 1947-48. In other words there has been an increase of 370 per cent. in the income of this province of Bengal. What about the expenditure? If we take the figure of 1938-39, the expenditure was 12 crores 76 lakhs, for that was a year when a balanced budget was presented, and the budget estimate for this year is 41 crores 46 lakhs of rupees, in other words, an increase of expenditure by 325 per cent. Over and above that there is a deficit of either 19 crores or 25 crores if the proposal for adding to the pays and prospects of the employees of the Government of Bengal is accepted. That is the picture of Bengal, the picture of Pakistan of which my friends opposite speak so much a deficit of 25 crores of rupees and you remain today mortgaged to the Government of India and if it refuses to come to your rescue you would lead your province to complete ruin and disaster.

Now, Sir, who has suffered and who has gained? Is it not possible for my friends opposite to survey as to whether during the last ten years the common man has benefited in any way? The problem of foodstuff, of clothing health, housing, education, trade and commerce- has there been any marked improvement in the conditions of Bengal, whether Hindu or Muslim. Where is the Bengali Muslim today in any one of these spheres? (A member from Government benches: Nowhere.) That is the pleasure of the interruptors that at any rate during the last ten years they have succeeded in crushing the Hindus of Bengal, no matter whether the Muslims of Bengal have benefited or not. Wonderful pleasure!

Now, Sir, I would ask my friends to examine just for a few brief moments the expenditure on the nation-building departments. I am broadly analysing the figure, I have not the time to go through the details. If you look at the nation-building departments, you will find that this huge increase in expenditure has benefited the nation-building departments by 92·7 per cent., if we bear in mind the figures for 1938-39 and 1947-48, General Administration has benefited by hundred per cent.; Civil Supplies and this is mainly for administration and some works of construction—has absorbed 6 crores 12 lakhs in 1946-47 and it is going to absorb 5 crores and 47 lakhs of rupees next year—only the maintenance of the Civil Supplies Department. Famine and relief cost us 5 crores 83 lakhs last year and it is going to cost us 2 crores 90 lakhs next year; riot 2 crores 49 lakhs last year and 1 crore 26 lakhs in the coming year. Now, if you analyse these figures you will be able immediately to answer to the argument which was offered to the House by my friend the Hon'ble the Finance Minister that he is not so much afraid about this huge budget because he is going to land Bengal on productive expenditure, whereby the wealth of the people of Bengal will increase and their taxable capacity also will increase. Analyse these big departments which are being run by the Government of Bengal at such colossal cost and ask which has been the most productive of these departments?

Now, Sir, if you analyse a little more these figures you will come across certain big landmarks of Muslim League loot, fraud and maladministration —I use these words deliberately—which have led to this huge expenditure of the public funds and the first which I shall present to the honourable members is the boat construction scheme. (Interruptions from Government benches.) I do not know whether the interruptors in particular have been benefited by it. The boat construction scheme has cost Bengal 3 crores of rupees. We were promised last year when the budget was presented that there would be a thorough enquiry into this scandal. I believe there is no

parallel to this fraud anywhere else—3 crores, already spent and 31 lakhs spent per year. And pray, what sort of boats? Boats that do not float. (Laughter from Opposition benches.) Wonderful boats prepared under the direct auspices of the Muslim League Ministry! Why were these boats necessary? They were necessary to keep going the leaky boat of the Muslim League Ministry which was brought into power by the late Sir John Herbert after the resignation of Mr. Fazlul Huq. To keep the Muslim League Ministry going this great boat construction scheme had to be evolved. And who were the partners? It is all an open secret now. So many members of the Legislature, Ministers, their wives and relations suddenly became great industrialists and partners in fraud and through their shameless efforts boats came into existence—boats that do not float according to the admission of the Finance Minister. What I cannot understand is why should not the majority of the members of the present Muslim League Party who have nothing to do with this fraudulent transaction, why should not they rise up to a man and demand that these dishonest persons, who were masquerading as friends of the party should be brought before the court of law and publicly tried for this criminal mismanagement. If you are not going to do that, at any rate put them on the boats and throw them into the Bay of Bengal. (Laughter.) Only keep some boats for my friends of the European Party, so that they can go back in June 1948; they deserve this special treatment because they supported the Ministry. This party has been responsible for keeping this dishonest Ministry in office during the entire period.

Next comes the loss on account of sale of subsidised food. You examine the figures yourself. There has been a loss of Rs. 6 crores and 21 lakhs during the last three years on account of subsidised food. What is the explanation? The explanation is simple. Who are the contractors? Some big men had to be patronised, others had to be purchased. What does it matter if the Bengal peasants, whether Hindus or Muslims, had to pay Rs. 6 crores and 21 lakhs and the Province completely liquidated? What does it matter? The Muslim League flag must fly and there are certain gentlemen who are out to rouse communal passion in the Province who must be patronised. Sir, there was a remark made by the Accountant-General—I would like the Finance Minister to bring it up before the Legislature—about the waste of 33,000 maunds of rice involving lakhs of rupees, for which no explanation has yet gone to the office of the Accountant-General. No explanation is possible except deliberate and criminal neglect of duty.

Then comes the chaotic condition of the Famine Relief Fund. Will the Hon'ble Finance Minister dare to contradict me if I say that the Accountant-General has informed the Government of Bengal that a sum of 5 crores of rupees has remained unaccounted for from this fund (Cries of "shame, shame" from the Opposition Benches.) What is the confidential report of Sir Walter Gurner appointed by the self-same Muslim League Ministry, who has said that the figure is mounting up. Where is the money going? For whose benefit is this money being employed? I am not going into the communal aspect of this question at all. I am trying to put some little sense into the minds of my friends sitting opposite who had nothing to do with the administration of the previous Ministry. I would expect my friends, particularly my younger friends to rise up and say "we want a clean Ministry—a Ministry which will not swindle away crores of rupees belonging to this Province which after all come out of the blood and toil of millions of Bengal's population". The Minister himself is in charge of some of the relief operations. I have never heard of such a thing that the Minister himself is operating a portion of the relief and that is, I believe, connected particularly with Bihar Relief. He has spent Rs. 57 lakhs for giving doles to the Muslim sufferers coming from Bihar. (A VOICE: It was necessary.) (MR. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: It was due to your

activities.) It was not due to our activities at all. It has been repeatedly stated by the Opposition that Bihar incidents had been due to our activities, but forget not that Bihar incidents had taken place on account of Noakhali and Calcutta. One warning has come from Bihar and unless members opposite come to their senses, there will be many more Bihars enacted which will be catastrophic to the Muslim League. (Uproar.) (Cries of "Bengal is prepared".) You can shout but do not ignore realities.

Now let me come to the trading loss of the Province due to rice, wheat and wheat products. If we examine these figures, we get the following figures: In 1943-44, Rs. 3 crores 50 lakhs; in 1944-45, Rs. 13 crores 13 lakhs; in 1945-46, Rs. 1 crore 96 lakhs; in 1946-47, Rs. 2 crores 13 lakhs; and in the coming Budget Rs. 1 crore 20 lakhs. This trading loss we shall have to suffer for rice, wheat and wheat products. What are the details? Who are the persons to whom contracts have been given? Disclose their names. This loss has been due to the corrupt, communal and inefficient manner in which you have distributed the patronage not for the purpose of helping the teeming millions of Bengal's population, but for the purpose of putting money into the pockets of persons who in their turn will help the Ministers. You have thus landed Bengal into this disastrous position.

Now, Sir, I have not taken into account up till now the development fund. This aspect of the matter presents certain problems which we cannot overlook. For the development of Bengal Government of India is going to pay Rs. 69 crores spread over a period of five years and the Government of Bengal is going to pay Rs. 31 crores. 100 crores of rupees are going to be spent for the development of Bengal. This perhaps has never happened in the history of this Province since the East India Company days. And how will this huge and colossal sum of money be spent? Here, Sir, I would like to make a demand that this sum, coming as it does—at least the bulk of it—from the Government of India, cannot be left to be distributed or the policy to be settled entirely by a partisan Ministry. It is our demand that there must be an Advisory Committee appointed by the Government of India which will scrutinise every scheme which will be put forward by the Government of Bengal and later on when the scheme will be put into operation that Committee will see to it that this money is spent not for communal purposes, not for party purposes, but for the amelioration of the condition of the people of Bengal, irrespective of communities. (A voice: That is being done.) Look at the schemes which have been prepared. I could not get all of them. I could get only some information from the references which have been made in the Budget. I would request the Hon'ble Finance Minister, and it is a request which should be made by every member of this House, that full details of the schemes which will cover Rs. 69 crores or 100 crores should be circulated to the members of the legislature. You will find that last year there was a provision made of Rs. 10,45 lakhs out of which only Rs. 6,96 lakhs were spent. At first there was a scheme; certain provisions were made but they were dropped out the reason being the same spirit of thoughtless and criminal negligence of the real needs of the Province. Some schemes are put forward today, some are rejected tomorrow, some are again gone through on the next day, some are left behind. This sort of cycle goes on. My friend the Hon'ble Finance Minister spoke about productive schemes. I find, for instance, in the revised estimate out of Rs. 6,96 lakhs Rs. 32 lakhs have only been spent for agriculture and industry. This is the great productive scheme which is going to raise the wealth of Bengal which will ultimately wipe out the deficit. I shall give two illustrations. There was a scheme for the re-excavation of derelict irrigation tanks and Rs. 30 lakhs were provided for in the Budget. Officers were appointed, investigations were made, statistics were taken and Rs. 19 lakhs were spent and suddenly the scheme was dropped, and this year the provision is zero.

Then, Sir, there was a proposal for the Bengal Textile Institute. Rs. 4,34,000 was provided for, but nothing was spent and this year a

smaller sum has been provided. We can find a number of such schemes for which provisions are made at random. Then either some money is spent or schemes are abandoned completely in the coming year. But the staggering position is with regard to education. For primary education I find that you had a provision which I thought was very salutary, for the training of staff of primary schools. You spent nothing of this grant and you abandoned the scheme in 1947-48. What was the reason? The reason is nothing but communal. Officers were selected and they were sent abroad. Those officers have come back but they are sitting idle since October last. Because you have not the requisite number of Muslim officers you have chosen to abandon the scheme which was the only way to improve the cause of primary education in Bengal. We have here another example of the suicidal policy pursued by the Government. Unless you get qualified teachers you cannot do anything, and for the purpose of getting qualified teachers you must have training schools for teachers and you must have trained teachers for those schools. The scheme was to have been worked out but because you could not get your quota of Muslim teachers the scheme was abandoned.

Then, Sir, with regard to secondary education the same thing has happened. You provided Rs. 180 lakhs for expansion of non-Government schools. That scheme also has been abandoned. The grant for secondary schools was diverted to communal purposes.

Then, as regards collegiate education, it is from beginning to the end nothing but communal. You have provided Rs. 10 lakhs for the Islamia College and 2,000 acres of land for the purpose of converting it into a residential college. If you want a residential college for Bengal, have it for all communities. But if you do not want to have it for all, then have it for both the communities separately. But you have no right to expect that the Government of India will give you a single farthing for supporting a communal residential college. You have heard what Maulana Abul Kalam Azad said on the present system of education. (At this stage there was loud noise from the Muslim League benches.) You provided for ten lakhs of rupees for further research in Calcutta University, but that amount has been taken away. You forget that any improvement in Bengal must be based on the advancement of scientific and industrial research. You refused to take advantage of the scheme which your own experts approved and provided money in the budget last year. You refused to pay the money because that would be helping the Calcutta University which is not a communal institution. Do you know what Great Britain has done in the matter? They have increased grants to the Universities for this purpose. Both Sir John Anderson as Chancellor of Exchequer of the Coalition Ministry, and Dr. Dalton have contributed to the extent of about 20 crores of rupees because they thought that if Great Britain was to pace with other countries the only institutions through which it could be done effectively were the Scientific and Industrial Research Departments of Universities and other national institutions.

Sir, it is not possible for me to go into further details. But I would say one thing only—that the time has now come for us to take stock of the events that are happening in this province. I have not deliberately touched upon other spheres of administration, viz., General Administration, Police, Famine, and so on. But the way in which these departments are being administered is a blot on any civilised country. You deliberately want to crush one particular community. That is your policy and that was manifested when you suddenly took out the Ordinance affecting Noakhali and Chandpur, but you have kept the Dacca Ordinance. You wanted to be impartial but you showed your communal mind when you kept the Dacca Ordinance, removing at the same time the Ordinance which was applicable to Noakhali and Chandpur. Sir, we do not know what is going to happen to this province in 1948, but this much I can say that we have now reached

a state of affairs which has become intolerable. Even from the point of view of interest of the masses you have failed miserably and hopelessly, and you have no right to remain in the office you occupy. Looking from the interests of the Hindus who have every right to live with peace and honour in this province, and representing as they do 45 per cent. of the population, every scheme you have brought up goes against the interests of the Hindus, and in every sphere and in every branch of administration you have evidenced allegiance to a rank communal policy which is out to crush their legitimate rights. We knew what the policy of the Muslim League was, as you declared on the Direct Action Day. But you failed in certain respects, and since August last you have been trying to monopolise the posts and offices and also the entire administrative system. I shudder to think of the attack when it comes from the Muslim League next time. What I would like to tell the Hon'ble Minister is that the Hindus of Bengal have fought and fought hard for rousing the national spirit in the whole of India, they can defend themselves against communal aggressors also. It is a fact and an unchallengeable fact that whatever powers are coming into the hands of Indians today, it is largely due to the sufferings and sacrifices of the patriotic Hindus of Bengal, who suffered not as Hindus but as Indians for the improvement of the condition and for freedom of the common man. If the occasion so demands, we are not going to die as slaves in this country of our birth. If occasion demands all the nationalist forces in Bengal will be limited so that we can make it impossible for the pernicious system to continue. The constitution which you have got and under which this Muslim League Ministry functions has forfeited the right to exist under the canon of any civilised administration and the sooner it strikes into the limbs of oblivion the better for the people of this land.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Sir, I rise to support the budget. My friends on the other side in their contempt and hatred for the Muslims and in their jealousy for not getting the Ministry, have not seen any good points in the budget. I admit there may be some flaw, some bad thing in the budget, but my friends on the other side have been blinded so much by communal passion that they could not see any good point in the budget at all. I expected that a man of Dr. Mookerjee's position would at least appreciate some of the good points in the budget, but unfortunately they all have forgotten to see that in spite of such heavy deficit in the budget we have not put forward any kind of new taxation on the people of Bengal. On that score the Hon'ble Finance Minister ought to have been congratulated, because the ordinary custom of balancing the budget in any country is to come up with only fresh taxation. It will appear from the budgetary provisions of the province that the Hon'ble Finance Minister did not like to put Bengali Muslims and Hindus to any further taxation.

Sir, my friends on the other side have clamoured that because it is a deficit budget we should not support it. But they know very well that by a single stroke of the pen, brushing aside a few of the items, *e.g.*, expenses on famine, or, say, increment of salaries of officers, or, say, expenses which came now to be borne by the Government on account of riots, we might have presented a surplus budget. But what is the use of that surplus budget? You are so communal that you will never find any good features in the budget. You always criticise the budget and you are still now doing it because of the deficit. (DR. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Then increase your deficit.)

Sir, I would like to submit that although I support the budget to some extent, I cannot help saying that very little has been done for the poor people of Bengal and the peasants of Bengal.

As I stand here, there is a clear and heart-rending cry in the countryside about food shortage and about shortage of cloth. Even this time in the budget we are curtailing the expenses on the Agricultural Development Department and we have not given some amount or rather adequate amount

for "Grow More Food" campaign which would have helped Bengal to render its people self-sufficient in getting food materials.

Apart from that, we have floated many schemes which go to help the urban people only, for example, the North Calcutta Electrification Scheme and the Kanchrapara Area Expansion Scheme. These, I think, will help only one side of the population of Bengal, viz., the Hindus, and it will be amounting to giving alms to millionaires. Had we been communal, we might have taken this scheme to Dacca or Noakhali or Chittagong where the Muslim population comes to at least 90 per cent. of the whole population. (DR. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Which scheme?) The Kanchrapara Area Expansion Scheme. (DR. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: This is Government of India money.) It may be, but because we are not communal, we are allowing this scheme to be planned and done in Kanchrapara where Dr. Mookerjee and his other friends can have more easy access.

Now, Sir, another criticism which I would like to make about this budget is that it has been almost an officers' budget this time. We are sending out officers to foreign countries to understand finance and to acquire knowledge about finance. We are giving them increment of salaries to the extent of six crores and we are giving some notable increment in the salaries of primary teachers as well, but I fail to understand why equal treatment has not been meted out to the peasants of Bengal who are crying for food and cloth.

To the explanation that has been given by my friend the Hon'ble Finance Minister about the financial stability of the province, I must add a word or two. So long as the evil effects of the Niemeyer Award or the Meston Award remain, it is not possible, unless the Government comes in direct conflict with the Centre, to adjust the financial position of this province. We know that in 1936 the Government of India got as much as 60 crores on account of the jute tax and out of that only 4 crores was given to Bengal though we claimed the entire amount which could have been given to us. Now, there will be more glaring injustice to Bengal. Now the chance of doing injustice to Bengal is further aggravated by putting up a Central Government over us which is headed by Pandit Nehru. My friend the Hon'ble Finance Minister is not justified to look forward to the Central Government which only the other day tried to oust the League Members over there by their indirect mechinations, and to go for help to that Centre would be too much. I should ask my honourable friend the Finance Minister just to nationalise industries, just to increase the product of agriculture in this country, just to nationalise the transport of this province so that we may get more money without looking to the Centre because the present Central Government, as it is composed now, is trying to throttle the Muslim League.

(The member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, এবারের বাজেট অন্যান্য বৎসরের বাজেটের মতই নিতান্ত মামুলী ধরণের একটা বিষয় ছাড়া ইহাতে আর কোন নূতনত্ব নেই। এ বিষয়টা হচ্ছে সাম্প্রদায়িকতা, এ সম্বন্ধে আমি পরে বলব, আর একটা বিষয় হচ্ছে এবারের বাজেট গত কয়েক বৎসর যেমন হ'য়ে আসছে তেমনি একটি ঘাটতি বাজেট। গত জুলাই মাসে যে বাজেট পেশ করা হয়েছিল তাতে অনুমান করা গিয়েছিল যে বছরের শেষে ঘাটতির পরিমাণ দাঁড়াবে নয় কোটি ৭০ লক্ষ টাকা কিন্তু এখন দেখা যাচ্ছে ইহার পরিমাণ হবে ১৩ কোটি টাকা। আগামী বৎসরের ঘাটতির পরিমাণ আপাততঃ ধরা হয়েছে ছয় কোটি ২০ লক্ষ টাকা কিন্তু অর্থসচিব মহোদয় আশঙ্কা করছেন যে যদি সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীদের মাইনে বাড়ান যায়, আর তাদের মাইনে বাড়ানো যে অত্যাবশ্যক তাতে সন্দেহের অবকাশ নেই, তবে এই ঘাটতির পরিমাণ দাঁড়াবে ১২ কোটি টাকা। সুতরাং চলতি বৎসরে ঘাটতির পরিমাণ তের কোটি টাকা আর আগামী বৎসরেও ঘাটতি হবে ১২ কোটি টাকা। বৎসরের পর বৎসর এইরূপ বিরাট ঘাটতি লইয়া কোন গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে চলা অসম্ভব। প্রতি

বৎসর কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের কাছ হতে পাট শুল্ক বাবদ, আয়কর বাবদ এবং গঠনমূলক কাজের জন্য যে বিরাট টাকা পাওয়া যায়, তা ছাড়া এই টাকা কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিকট হ'তে মন্ত্রী মহোদয় পেতে আশা করেন। তাঁর ইচ্ছা পূর্ণ হউক। ইহাই আমাদের অন্তরের কামনা, না হ'লে আমাদের অবস্থা যে অচল, কিন্তু প্রতি বৎসর এইরূপ ভিক্ষার ঝুলি লইয়া কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিকট যাওয়া লজ্জার বিষয়, মন্ত্রী মহোদয় এই লজ্জাজনক অবস্থার জন্য গত যুদ্ধ এবং মেষ্টন ও নিমেয়ার award কে দায়ী করেছেন। Award দুইটির সমস্যা অতি জটিল। যে অল্প সময় আমার আয়ত্তে আছে, তার মধ্যে এইরূপ দুইটি জটিল সমস্যা সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা অসম্ভব তবে যুদ্ধজনিত ক্ষতির বাবদ অর্থ দাবী বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিকট অতি ন্যায়সঙ্গতভাবেই করতে পারে।

কিন্তু নিজেদের পায়ের উপর দাঁড়ানোর উদ্দেশ্যে আমাদের শক্তি বাড়ানোর দিকেও বিশেষ নজর দেওয়া উচিত। এই প্রসঙ্গে স্বভাবতঃই ট্যাক্স বাড়ানোর কথা উঠে। কিন্তু আমি মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে স্পষ্ট ভাষায় জানিয়ে দিচ্ছি যে বাংলার জনগণ বর্ত্তমানে দারুণ কষ্টের ভিতরে দিন কাটাচ্ছে। গত কয়েক বৎসর বাংলার জনগণের উপর নানাভাবে ট্যাক্স চাপানো হয়েছে। তাদের পক্ষে আর ট্যাক্স দেওয়া অসম্ভব। তাই মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে বলি তিনি যেন সেভাবে ট্যাক্স চাপানোর কথা না ভাবেন। হুগলী নদীর উভয় পার্শ্বে যে অসংখ্য চটকল আছে--যারা যুদ্ধের সময় প্রচুর লাভ করে ফেঁপে উঠেছে, তাদের দিকে তাকিয়ে তাদের লাভের কিছু অংশ পাওয়া যায় কিনা তা ভেবে দেখা উচিত। আর তাকানো উচিত উত্তর বঙ্গের চা বাগানসমূহের দিকে। এই চা বাগানগুলির মালিকেরা গত যুদ্ধের সময় শতকরা ১শ', ২শ', ৩শ', টাকা পর্য্যন্ত লাভ করেছে। আর তাকানো উচিত পশ্চিম বঙ্গের কয়লার খনিসমূহের দিকে, এরা বৎসরের পর বৎসর প্রচুর পরিমাণে লাভ করেছে। এই সব শিল্পের বিরাট লাভের উপর ভাগ বসাতে পারলে বাংলার বর্ত্তমান অর্থসঙ্কটের সমাধান বোধ হয় সহজেই সম্ভব।

এই ত' গেল ঘাটতি বাজেটের কথা। এখন একবার পল্লী বাংলার দিকে তাকানো যাক। পল্লী বাংলা আজ চায় অন্ন, বস্ত্র, পানীয় জল, শিক্ষা, চিকিৎসার সুব্যবস্থা ও বেকার সমস্যার সমাধান। বাংলা এখন অন্নের জন্য পরাধীন, বাংলার অবস্থা চিরদিন এমন ছিল না; এই শস্য শ্যামলা বাংলা দেশ শুধু নিজের প্রয়োজনই মিটায় নাই সে খাদ্য বিদেশেও রপ্তানী করেছে। কিন্তু আজ বাংলায় অন্নের অভাব। এমন কেন হল? সে বিষয় এখন গভর্ণমেণ্টের বিশেষ করে ভেবে দেখা উচিত এবং ভেবে দেখে কারণ নির্ণয় করে তা সংশোধন করা উচিত, বস্ত্র সমস্যা সম্বন্ধে কয়েক বৎসর আগে এই বাবস্থা পরিষদে facts and figures দিয়ে দেখিয়ে দিয়েছিলাম যে যদি পরিকল্পনা অনুযায়ী বাংলা সরকার ১০ বৎসর কাজ করেন তবে বাংলার বস্ত্র সমস্যার সমাধান অনায়াসে সম্ভবপর, কিন্তু বাংলা সরকার কোন পরিকল্পনা অনুযায়ী কাজ করেন নাই। তাই আজ বাংলা বস্ত্রাভাবে কষ্ট পাচ্ছে। বাংলা সরকারের না আছে নিজের কোন পরিকল্পনা, না আছে অপরের পরিকল্পনানুযায়ী কর্ম্মপ্রচেষ্টা। তার ফলে দেশ আজ দারুণ অন্ন-বস্ত্র-সমস্যার সম্মুখীন। তারপর পানীয় জল এবং শিক্ষার কথা বলা যেতে পারে। কিন্তু আমার সময় কম তবু শিক্ষা সম্বন্ধে ২।১ কথা বলি। শিক্ষা বিস্তারে বাংলা সরকার যেরূপ ধীরে ধীরে অগ্রসর হচ্ছেন তাতে বাংলা আগে যেমন অন্ধকারে ছিল এখনও তেমনি অন্ধকারে আচ্ছন্ন আছে। বাংলার সত্যিকার শিক্ষার বিস্তার কিছুই হচ্ছে না। তারপর আর একটি দারুণ সমস্যা--তা হ'ল বেকার সমস্যা। এই সমস্যা শুধু বাংলার শিক্ষিত তরুণদের নয় জনগণেরও। ইহা ক্রমশঃই অধিক বিরাট আকার ধারণ করছে। এই সমস্যার সমাধানের জন্য প্রয়োজন শিল্পের ব্যাপক সম্প্রসারণ। কিন্তু শিল্পের ব্যাপক সম্প্রসারণ কল্পে কিম্বা যে সব সমস্যার আগে উল্লেখ করা হয়েছে তাদের সমাধান সম্বন্ধে বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের যে কোন সুনিশ্চিত পরিকল্পনা আছে, সারা বাজেট তন্ন তন্ন করে খুঁজলেও তার আভাষ পাওয়া যায় না।

আমি আগেই বলেছি এই বারকার এই ঘাটতি বাজেটে বিশেষ লক্ষ্য করবার বিষয় হচ্ছে সাম্প্রদায়িকতা। বাজেট পড়লেই মনে হয়, মুসলমানদের স্বার্থের দিকে লক্ষ্য রেখেই যেন এই বাজেটটি রচিত হয়েছে। তাই একটি মুসলিম Education Fund সৃষ্টি করে তার জন্য বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে বৎসরে ১০ লক্ষ টাকা, মুসলমান ছাত্রদের জন্য কলিকাতায় হোষ্টেল স্থাপনের নিমিত্ত বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে দেড় লক্ষ টাকা। ইসলামিয়া ও প্রেসিডেন্সী কলেজের মুসলমান ছাত্রদের জন্য বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে ২৯ হাজার টাকা। ইসলামিয়া হাসপাতালের জন্য দেওয়া হয়েছে ১ লক্ষ ৩৬ হাজার টাকা। বিভিন্ন মাদ্রাসার জন্য ১ লক্ষ ৮৫ হাজার টাকা। Islamia College টিকে নূতন জায়গায় নিয়ে নূতন করে গড়ার জন্য আগামী বৎসর ৪ লক্ষ টাকা--পরের কথা পরে। এই নূতন Islamia College কে যে পরে Muslim University তে পরিণত করা হবে তার স্পষ্ট আভাষ প্রধান-মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের একটি সাম্প্রতিক বিবৃতিতে স্পষ্টভাবেই ফুটে উঠেছে।

অর্থসচিব মহোদয় বাজেট সম্পর্কিত বিবৃতির প্রথম ভাগেই পারস্পরিক সহনশীলতা ও সহযোগের জন্য আবেদন জানিয়েছেন কিন্তু তাঁর নিজের বাজেটেই যখন এরূপ সাম্প্রদায়িকতা দুষ্ট তখন এরূপ আবেদনের মূল্য কি? মাননীয়

মন্ত্রী মহোদয় কি মনে করেন না যে তাঁর এই বাজেটের ফলে মুসলমানদের মনে সাম্প্রদায়িক বিষ যেমন উগ্র হয়ে উঠবে হিন্দুর মনও ত' এই গভর্ণমেণ্টের প্রতি সেই পরিমাণে বিরূপ হবে, গভর্ণমেণ্ট সম্প্রদায় বিশেষের জন্য নয় সকলেরই মা-বাপের মত, মা-বাপের চোখ নিয়ে সকলকে না দেখতে পারলে গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে শান্তির আবেদন বৃথা। এই বাজেট পড়ে আমার কিন্তু মনে হয়েছে এ যেন Direct action এর নূতন এক অধ্যায়ে সজোরে পাদক্ষেপ। আসল গলদ কোথায়? বাংলার বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্ট শুধু সাম্প্রদায়িক ভাবাপন্ন মুসলিম লীগ কর্ত্তৃক পরিচালিত নয়--মুসলিম লীগের মধ্যে সাবেক প্রধান মন্ত্রী মিঃ এ, কে, ফজলুল হক ও বর্ত্তমান প্রধান মন্ত্রী জনাবেবল মিঃ সোহ্‌রাওয়ার্দ্দী সাহেবের সঙ্গে সেই বিরোধ চলছে তা সমগ্র বাজেটটি উগ্র সাম্প্রদায়িকতার বিষে ফেনায়িত করে তুলেছে। এই দুইটি দলের মধ্যে প্রতিযোগিতা মূল সূত্র হল হিন্দু বিদ্বেষ, হিন্দু বিদ্বেষের মানদণ্ডে যে যত প্রধান প্রমাণিত হবে প্রধান মন্ত্রীর আসন তারই। একপ গভর্ণমেণ্টের কাছে হ'তে যা' আশা করা যায় বর্ত্তমান বাজেট তাইই।

এই প্রসঙ্গে এই সতর্কবাণী আমি এই গভর্ণমেণ্টকে শুনাতে চাই। বাংলার সোয়া ছয় কোটি লোকের মধ্যে পৌণে তিন কোটি হিন্দু। বৈপুবিক ঐতিহ্যে উদ্দীপ্ত এই বিশাল হিন্দু সমাজ সাম্প্রদায়িকতার এই বিষময় জ্বালা বেশীদিন নীরবে সইবে না। এক দিন ইহার বিরুদ্ধে হয় তারা প্রকাশ্যে বিদ্রোহ করবে--নয় বাংলার ব্যবচ্ছেদ দাবী করবে।

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the budget is a hardy annual, and during this time the Opposition try their utmost if they can remove the Ministry. We have seen in the past that members on the other side sitting opposite have used several tactics including some questionable tactics, and it was due to such tactics that in the year 1945 the then Ministry had to be removed. This time they have realised the futility of such tactics and they are taking resort to fresh tactics. Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee has come forward with new tactics and that is misleading the House. Among other things he has said that Noakhali and Tippera Ordinance has not been included in the list of Ordinances containing Bill. To that I would say that because power has been conferred on Government by the Special Powers Ordinance, Section 10(*a*), Noakhali and Tippera Ordinance has been omitted from the said Bill. By another Bill the same power is being conferred on Government, and it was for that reason that it was not included. Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee then comes to say that money has been allotted for establishing a Muslim University. About that I would ask him to tell us who it was who first established the Hindu University at Benares. Was it not a fact that that was established even before the Aligarh University was established and the Act passed? It was they who have shown the way, and we have simply followed it, and for that we are now being attacked. We are out for a new University of our own, because we know that it is necessary for the people of Bengal. Sir, I could say many things against what he said, but I refrain from saying anything more. I touched only these two points.

Now, Sir, as to the budget, I will make some constructive suggestions. The outlines have been given by the Hon'ble Finance Minister. So I do not want to recapitulate them. I would only tell the Hon'ble Minister that in the Blue Book in column 1, slight details of expenditure are given, in column 2 we have got two sub-heads—one "current year" and the other "coming year", and the number of officers is given there. If there be two other sub-heads under each, viz., "Muslim" and "Non-Muslim" we can see at a glance how much the Communal Ratio Rules are being enforced by Government; and if that is accepted I would say that most of the questions of this side of the House would come to an end, because if you go through the question papers from this side of the House, you will find, Sir, that 50 per cent. of the questions relate to Communal Ratio Rules. So, I would request the Hon'ble Minister to see that in future at the time of framing the budget he will specially see that in column 2 two other sub-heads are added, namely, one "Muslim" and the other "Non-Muslim".

Then, Sir, I come to Extraordinary charges. Under the head "Extraordinary charges" is included the Civil Supplies Department. I will not be doing my duty if I do not point out to the Ministry the extravagances of the Civil Supplies Department.

I submit that the Civil Supplies Department ought not to have been included under the general head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India", but should have been made quite a separate head. But this has not been done. This department entailing huge expenditure of public money amounting to several crores forms part only as a sub-head under "Extraordinary Charges" for budgetary purposes. Under this sub-head we find a number of major items, namely, the Director-General of Food, the Director-General of Transport and Storage, the Director-General of Consumer Goods, the Director-General of Enforcement, the Directorate of Public Relations, etc. Under the Director-General of Food alone there are the Directorate of Procurement, the Directorate of Supply, the Directorate of District Distribution, the Directorate of Rationing, and Directorate of Inspection and Control. Under the Director-General of Transportation and Storage there are the Directorates of Transportation and of Storage. Under the Director-General of Consumer Goods there are the Directorates of Textiles and of Consumer Goods other than textiles and so on and so forth. Under this sub-head of Civil Supplies we find that the budgetary rules are not being strictly observed, and so it is rather confusing and difficult for us to give any constructive suggestion. We are at a loss to make out from the budget how the various officers are employed. So I would appeal to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister that he would try in future to see that the Civil Supplies Department is put under one major head and is not included as a sub-head under "Extraordinary Charges" with such details as is customary under these rules.

Mr. JADABENDRA NATH PANJA : মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, স্বাধীনতা লাভের প্রাক্কালে জাতি-ধর্ম্ম-নির্বিশেষে বাংলা দেশের সর্ব্ব শ্রেণীর ও সর্ব্বাঙ্গীন উন্নতির সম্বন্ধে যেন আমরা আলোচনা করি; আমরা যেন এমন কথা না বলি--যাতে সাম্প্রদায়িক বিরোধের ভাবকে বর্দ্ধিত করে। কোন দেশের উন্নতির কথা বলতে গেলে সেই দেশের লোকদের স্বাস্থ্য, সম্পদ ও শিক্ষা সম্বন্ধে চিন্তা করতে হয়। যখন বাংলা, বিহার, উড়িষ্যা ও ছোটনাগপুর লইয়া একটি প্রদেশ ছিল তখন সেই বৃহত্তর প্রদেশের যে আয় ছিল তার অপেক্ষাও বর্ত্তমান বাংলার আয় অনেক বেশী। Provincial Autonomy পাওয়ার প্রথম বছরেও অর্থাৎ ১৯৩৭-৩৮ সালেও বাংলা দেশের আয় যা ছিল বর্ত্তমানে আয় অন্ততঃ তার আড়াই গুণ হয়েছে। কিন্তু তার ফলে শিক্ষায়, স্বাস্থ্যে ও সম্পদে আমরা কোন উল্লেখযোগ্য উন্নতিলাভ করতে পেরেছি কি? বাংলা দেশে লোক ম্যালেরিয়া তাড়াতে পেরেছে কি? Tuberculosis patient এর সংখ্যা কম হচ্ছে কি? হাসপাতালের সংখ্যা বর্দ্ধিত হওয়াই উন্নতির পরিচয় নয়, রোগীর সংখ্যা কম হওয়াই উন্নতির পরিচয়। অন্যান্য স্বাধীন দেশের লোকদের গড়পড়তা আয়ু ৪৫ বছরের কম নয়, বাংলার লোকদের longivity ৩০ বছরের বেশী হয়েছে কি? পূর্ব্বে যে হারে শিশু মৃত্যু ছিল এখন কি পরিমাণে তাহার সংখ্যা কমেছে? পূর্ব্বের চেয়ে বাঙালী বলিষ্ঠ ও স্বাস্থ্যবান হয়েছে কি? তার physique, তার চেহারা পূর্ব্ব হতে আরো খর্ব্বাকৃতি ক্ষীণাকার হচ্ছে না কি? অতএব স্বাস্থ্যের দিক দিয়ে গৌরব বোধের কোন কারণ দেখতে পাচ্ছি না।

সম্পদের কথা national income এবং standard of living এর কথা বলতে গেলে আমাদের অবস্থা ভাল না হয়ে বরং উত্তরোত্তর খারাপই হচ্ছে। আমাদের দারিদ্র্যও বেড়ে চলেছে এবং অন্নাভাবও আরো বেশী হয়েছে।

Civil Supply Department খুলে সেই Department এর লোকদের পরিপুষ্ট করা হচ্ছে কিন্তু জনসাধারণের কষ্টের অবধি নাই। Civil Supply Department criminally Non supply Department এ পরিণত হয়েছে। Control এর অর্থ--যেখানে supply অল্প, সেই অল্প জিনিষই যাতে ধনী দরিদ্র নির্বিশেষে সমভাবে পায়, তাদের মধ্যে যাতে equitably distributed হয় তারই ব্যবস্থা করা; কিন্তু ফলে কি দেখছি? গরীব জিনিষপত্র পায় না, কোন ছিদ্র দিয়ে এই অল্প supply এর বড় অংশ ব্ল্যাক মার্কেটে গিয়ে বড় লোকদের হাতে পড়ে? এ সম্বন্ধে বহু চীৎকার করেও কোন সুষ্ঠু ব্যবস্থা গভর্ণমেণ্টকে নেওয়াতে পারা গেল না।

গভর্ণমেণ্ট এখন বড় মহাজন, বহু জিনিষপত্র খরিদ বিক্রী করে থাকেন, কিন্তু ব্যবসায়ী সাধারনের মত profit and loss account submit করেন না। Soviet Republic এও turn-over এর আয় আছে, তার হিসাব general budget এর ২।১ পৃষ্ঠায় শেষ না করে রীতিমত পৃথক ভাবে বাহির হয়। ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্টের রেলওয়ে বাজেটের মতন এই বিভাগটারও পৃথক বাজেট দাখিল করা উচিত

পূর্ব্বে যে কথা বলছিলাম, গত দশ বছরের মধ্যে বাংলা দেশের লোকদের আর্থিক অবস্থার কোন উন্নতি পরিলক্ষিত হয়নি।

এখন শিক্ষার কথা--এদিকেও যে বিশেষ কিছু উন্নতিলাভ হয়েছে তা মনে হয় না। দশ বছর পূর্ব্বে শিক্ষিতের হার আনুমানিক শতকরা বারো জন ছিল। এখন তার চেয়ে কতটা বেড়েছে? অথচ ত্রিবাঙ্কুর, পার্ব্বত্য অঞ্চলের একটা ছোট দেশীয় রাজ্য সেখানে শিক্ষিতের হার শতকরা ষাট জনের কম নয়। বাংলা দেশের ছেলের অপেক্ষাকৃত বুদ্ধিমান, তবুও কেন এরূপ হয়েছে?

এইবার আমি বর্দ্ধমান বিভাগের দুর্দ্দশার কথা, অভাব অভিযোগের কথা, নিবেদন করব। Burdwan Division is the most neglected part of Bengal—বর্দ্ধমান বিভাগ সবচেয়ে অবহেলিত অংশ।

বাঁকুড়ায় তিন বছর যাবৎ একটা Technical School ছিল, সম্প্রতি ওটাকে অন্যত্র অপসারিত করা হয়েছে। গভর্ণমেণ্ট ইচ্ছা করলে কি দুজায়গায় দুটি Technical School করতে এবং রাখতে পারতেন না? বাঁকুড়ায় যদি শতকরা ৪ জন মুসলমান না হয়ে শতকরা ৪০ জন মুসলমান হ'ত তাহলে গভর্ণমেণ্টের সাধ্য ছিল না যে সেখান হতে স্কুলটিকে অপসারিত করেন।

বর্দ্ধমান বিভাগে সেচের একান্ত আবশ্যক। মজা পুকুরের derelict tanks এর উদ্ধার হলে অনেক উপকার হ'ত। কিন্তু refugee problem এর সমাধান করতে গিয়ে, ছাটাই হোল derelict tank এর টাকা এবং সেইখানে মরল বর্দ্ধমান বিভাগ। চলতি বছরের (১৯৪৬-৪৭) বাজেটে মেদিনীপুর ও বর্দ্ধমান জেলায় খাল খনন ব্যাপারের জন্য বহু টাকা ধরা হইয়াছিল, কিন্তু খরচ অতি অল্পই করা হয়েছে। বর্দ্ধমান জেলায় Satkahonia irrigation scheme এ দুই লক্ষ টাকা ধরা হয়েছিল কিন্তু ব্যয় করা হয় নাই। Damodar Valley Project কার্য্যে পরিণত হলে, বর্দ্ধমান, বাঁকুড়া, হুগলী ও হাওড়া জেলার প্রভূত উন্নতি সাধন হবে। বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট এ বিষয়ে কোন উৎসাহ দেখাচ্ছেন না, তাঁরা উৎসাহশীল হলে এতদিনে সেটা কার্য্যে পরিণত হয়ে যেত।

বাল্যকাল হতেই স্বাধীনতার স্বপ্ন দেখে আসছি এবং গান্ধীজীর নেতৃত্বে স্বাধীনতা অর্জ্জনের ব্যাপারে কিছু অংশ গ্রহণ করবার সুযোগ পাওয়ায় বহু সহকর্ম্মীবর্গের সঙ্গে আমি নিজেকে ধন্য ও গৌরবান্বিত মনে করছি। অচিরাৎ বিদেশী শাসনের কবল হতে মুক্তিলাভ যে করব সে বিষয়ে সন্দেহ করবার আর কোন কারণ নাই। কবিবর রবীন্দ্রনাথ দুঃখ করে গেয়েছিলেন:--

"দিন আগত ঐ
ভারত তবু কই!"--

সেই দুঃখ মোচনের দিন এসে পড়েছে। আমাদের উপর শীঘ্রই স্বাধীন দেশ পরিচালনার গুরুভার দায়িত্ব এসে পড়বে। এ সময়ে বাংলা কি করবে! বাংলা দেশ স্বাধীন ভারতের সঙ্গে যুক্ত হয়ে নিজেদের বিশিষ্ট স্থান অধিকার করবে, না পৃথক ও স্বতন্ত্র থেকে নিজেকে Ulster এ পরিণত করবে! এ সম্বন্ধে বাংলা দেশের major community কে বিশেষভাবে অনুধাবন করতে অনুরোধ করছি। তাঁহাদের চিন্তা ও কার্য্যের উপর, স্বাধীন ভারতে বাংলা কি স্থান গ্রহণ করবে তার সমাধান বহুল পরিমাণে নির্ভর করছে। তবে আমি এ কথা স্পষ্ট ভাবেই জানাচ্ছি যে বাংলা দেশের একটা বিশিষ্ট অংশ স্বাধীন ভারতীয় ইউনিয়নের (Independent Republic of the Union of India) অন্তর্ভুক্ত হয়ে আত্মবিকাশের সুযোগ লাভের প্রয়াস পাবে এবং সে প্রয়াস সফল হলে, নিজেকে সে ধন্য ও গৌরবান্বিত মনে করবে।

ভগবানের নিকট প্রার্থনা যে তিনি আমাদের শুভবুদ্ধি দিন--যেন আমরা কল্যাণের পথ বেছে নিতে পারি

Mr. FAZLUL KARIM: মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার সাহেব, বিলাতি সাহেবদের কেরাণী সৃষ্টির উদ্দেশ্যেই এদেশে প্রথমে ইংরাজী শিক্ষা চালু করা হয়। মুসলমানদের নিকট ইংরাজী ভাষা ছিল গোলামির ভাষা, সদ্য রাজ্যহারা জাতি একে করল বর্জ্জন। তারপর স্বাভাবিকভাবেই ইংরাজী শিক্ষায় এসে পড়ল অমুসলমান

অভাব, মুসলমানদের সামাজিক, অর্থনৈতিক এবং সর্বোপরি ধর্মনৈতিক নিজস্ব শিক্ষাধারার কোন গন্ধও রইল না এই সব শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানে। ধর্মনীতিবিহীন শিক্ষা মুসলমান সমাজে চলতে পারে না। কাজেকাজেই ধর্মনীতি রক্ষার্থে কিছু কিছু মাদ্রাসা স্থাপিত হতে চল্ল। দুর্ভাগ্যবশতঃ ধর্মনীতি শিক্ষার একমাত্র মাদ্রাসাগুলির দৈন্য আজ চারিদিকে ভরে উঠেছে। স্বীকার করি মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা ব্যবস্থায় অর্থ--অর্থনৈতিক ও বৈজ্ঞানিক শিক্ষা ধারার সঙ্গে খুব বেশী যোগাযোগ নাই। কিন্তু ধর্মনীতি শিক্ষা মুসলমান সমাজে একান্ত প্রয়োজনীয় ইহা অস্বীকার করার উপায় নাই। বর্ত্তমান মাদ্রাসাগুলির সংস্কার হোক ইহা আমি চাই। এই বিভাগের প্রতি সরকারের গাফিলতি ও কার্পণ্য আর কতকাল সহ্য করা যায়। দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের চেষ্টার উপর ইহাকে সম্পূর্ণ নির্ভর করতে হয়। প্রাথমিক স্কুলেও সরকারী সাহায্য অপ্রচুর, সত্য কথা। কিন্তু মাদ্রাসাগুলিতে সরকারী সাহায্য ব্যবস্থা দেখে আমাদিগকে আরও হতাশ হতে হচ্ছে। প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়গুলির সাহায্যের প্রতি আমি সর্বদাই সহানুভূতিশীল, উহা সরকারী সাহায্য ছাড়া চলে না। জিজ্ঞাসা করি মাদ্রাসাগুলিতে কি অনুরূপ সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন নাই?

মাদ্রাসায় যারা পড়ে তারা সবাই দরিদ্র, মাদ্রাসার ফি দিতে সক্ষম নয় বরং তাহাদিগকে উল্টা সাহায্য করিতেই হয়। এমত অবস্থায় যদি সরকার মাদ্রাসার প্রতি হস্ত প্রসারিত না করেন তাহলে মাদ্রাসা চলতে পারে না। সরকারের দৃষ্টি আমি এদিকে আকর্ষণ করি।

ডেপুটি স্পীকার সাহেব বর্ত্তমানে, সামান্য কিছু টাকা old scheme senior মাদ্রাসার জন্য বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে কিন্তু old scheme junior মাদ্রাসার জন্য এক পয়সাও সরকারের হাতে উঠে নাই। আমরা এতে মর্মাহত। প্রতি জেলায় দুই একটি করে মাত্র senior মাদ্রাসা আছে, কাজেই old scheme junior মাদ্রাসাগুলির উপর ছেলেদের নির্ভর করতে হয়। কিন্তু সরকার এইসব junior মাদ্রাসাগুলির উপর দারুণ অবিচার করতেছেন। দেশবাসী বিভিন্ন tax দিতেই ব্যস্ত, আজ আর তার কাছে সাহায্যের আশা করা চলে না। সরকারের এদের প্রতি সুবিচার প্রার্থনীয়।

মুসলমান ছেলেদের ধর্মশিক্ষা দিতেই হবে। কিন্তু এ পর্য্যন্ত কয়েকবারই মুসলমান মন্ত্রিসভা গঠিত হয়েছে অথচ গ্রামের নিরীহ ধর্মপ্রাণ মুসলমান ছেলেদের ধর্মশিক্ষার একমাত্র অবলম্বন জুনিয়ার মাদ্রাসাগুলির প্রতি কখনও নজর দেওয়া কর্ত্তব্য বলে মনে করেন নাই। সরকারের অবলম্বিত এই গাফিলতির দরুণ মাদ্রাসা-শিক্ষা দিন দিন অবনতির দিকে চলেছে। ইহার জন্য সরকারই জনসাধারণের নিকট দায়ী। অর্থাভাবের দরুণ এই সকল মাদ্রাসায় ভাল শিক্ষকও পাওয়া যাচ্ছে না। এ বিষয়ে আমার তিক্ত অভিজ্ঞতা রয়েছে। জনপ্রিয় মন্ত্রিসভাকে আমি অনুরোধ করি তাঁরা যেন এ বিষয়ে রেকর্ড তৈরী করেন এবং ইহাও আমার অনুরোধ যে এ বিষয়ে আইন সভায় আলেম সদস্যগণের মতামতের প্রতি পূর্ণ মর্য্যাদা প্রদর্শন করেন, এবং তাঁদের সঙ্গে পরামর্শ করে মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষার সুশৃঙ্খল ব্যবস্থা করেন।

সরকারের অবহেলার আরও নজীর রয়েছে, কোরাণ হাদিস শিক্ষা ও চর্চার জন্য মরহুম হাজী মহসেন বিরাট সম্পত্তি ওয়াকফ্ করিয়াছিলেন, কিন্তু মরহুমের সে ইচ্ছা সুচারুরূপে সম্পাদন করার ভার ছিল সরকারের উপর। প্রথমতঃ সরকার সে উদ্দেশেই ঢাকা, চাটগাঁও এবং হুগলীতে মাদ্রাসা স্থাপন করেন কিন্তু পরে new scheme মাদ্রাসায় উহাদিগকে পরিবর্ত্তিত করে নামে মাত্র কোরাণ হাদিস শিখান হচ্ছে, বেশীর ভাগই সেখানে শিখান হয় ইংরাজী অথচ সরকার সব সাহায্যই করছেন তাদেরকে। আমি অনুরোধ করি মোহসিন ফাণ্ডের টাকা দাতার ইচ্ছা অনুযায়ী মাত্র old scheme মাদ্রাসাতেই যেন দেন।

সকল শ্রেণীর ছাত্রদের পৃথক হোষ্টেলের ব্যবস্থা রয়েছে, নাই শুধু মাদ্রাসার ছাত্রদের জন্য। নীতির দিক দিয়ে ইহা একান্ত প্রয়োজনীয়--আমরা ইহার জোর দাবী করি।

ইংরাজী নিয়ে যারা মাদ্রাসা পাশ করবে তাদেরকে সাব-রেজিষ্ট্রারী দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা রেজিষ্ট্রেশন রুলে আছে, সে মতে কয়েকজনকে সাবরেজিষ্ট্রার করাও হয়েছে, পরে তা বন্ধ করে ইংরাজী শিক্ষিতগণকেই দেওয়া হচ্ছে, অথচ তাদের জন্য রয়েছে সারা দেশের চাকুরী, আমি দাবী করি সরকার যেন সাবরেজিষ্ট্রারী পদগুলি মৌলভী সাহেবদের জন্য রিজার্ভ রাখেন।

প্রাইমারী স্কুলগুলায় দিনীয়াত শিক্ষা বাধ্যতামূলক করা হয়েছে, ভাল কথা, কিন্তু পড়ায় পণ্ডিত সাহেবগণ যাঁরা নিজেও কোরাণ শুদ্ধ করে পড়তে শেখেননি, ছেলেদের পড়াবেন কি করে। সেজন্য আমরা প্রত্যেক প্রাইমারী স্কুলে একজন করে মাদ্রাসা পাশ মৌলভী রাখার দাবী জানাচ্ছি। যদি সরকার এ ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করেন তাহলে অনেক মৌলভী সাহেবের জীবিকা-নির্বাহের ব্যবস্থা হতে পারে। আমি আইন সভায় সমস্ত মুসলমান সদস্যের এইদিকে সহানুভূতি প্রার্থনা করি।

নোয়াখালীর রায়পুরা থানার দক্ষিণে মেঘনা নদী হতে ডাকাতিয়া নামে একটি প্রকাণ্ড খাল প্রবাহিত হয়, এ খাল রায়পুরার মধ্য দিয়া ফরিদগঞ্জ হয়ে চাঁদপুর মেঘনা নদীতে পতিত হয়। রায়পুরা, রামগঞ্জ, ফরিদগঞ্জ এই তিন থানার পানি নিকাশ হত এই নালা দিয়ে। ১৯৩৫ সন হতে নানা কারণে খালের মোহনা ক্রমেই বন্ধ হতে আরম্ভ করে, ফলে ১৯৩৮ সনে প্রায় সম্পূর্ণ বন্ধ হয়ে রায়পুরা, রামগঞ্জ ও ফরিদগঞ্জ থানার অর্দ্ধেক বন্যা প্লাবিত হয়ে দেশের সমুদয় ধান, পাট, বাগানাদি নষ্ট হয়ে দেশে কি দারুণ দুর্ভিক্ষের হাহাকার পড়ে, অনাহারে অর্দ্ধাহারেও অনেক লোক মারা যায়। বর্ত্তমান মাননীয় প্রধান-মন্ত্রী উক্ত অঞ্চল তখন পরিদর্শন করে দেখেছেন যে খালের মোহনা বন্ধ হওয়াতেই প্লাবন দেখা দিয়েছে, তখন হতে উপর্য্যুপরি তিন বৎসর বাংলা সরকার সে সব এলাকায় নানা প্রকার রিলিফের ব্যবস্থা করেছেন এবং খালটি খনন করে দেওয়ার জন্য দেশবাসী সরকারের নিকট চীৎকার করতে থাকে। নোয়াখালীর তখনকার District Magistrate মিঃ বাষ্টিন তদন্ত করে Irrigationএ নিয়ে খালটি খনন করে দেওয়ার সুপারিশ করেছিলেন। কয়েকবার ইঞ্জিনীয়ারগণ গিয়ে খালের প্রয়োজনীয়তা বিশ্লেষণ করেছেন। কিন্তু আজ পর্য্যন্ত খাল খনন করা হয়নি, ফলে বন্যা প্লাবিত থাকায় তিনটি থানায় প্রত্যেক বৎসরই অর্দ্ধেক ফসল জন্মায়, বাগানগুলি বৎসরের পর বহুদিন যাবৎ পানি জমা থাকে বলে সমূলে ধ্বংস হতে চলেছে। সরকার তদন্ত করে জানতে পারবেন যে উক্ত অঞ্চলে পূর্ব্বাপেক্ষা এক-তৃতীয়াংশ সুপারিও বাজারে আমদানী হইতেছে না, অথচ ইহাই সে অঞ্চলের একমাত্র সম্বল। মাত্র ইহাই নয়--হাতিয়া, সন্দীপ, রামগঞ্জ, ফরিদগঞ্জ প্রভৃতি স্থানে আমদানী হতেছিল তদ্দ্যারা এসব অঞ্চলের চাহিদা মিটে যেত, খাল বন্ধ হয়ে যাওয়ায় বর্ত্তমানে আমদানী নাই বলে এ অঞ্চলে ধানের দর সর্ব্বাপেক্ষা চড়া থাকে এবং ধানের অনটন থাকে--কাজেই সরকার সব সময় যৎকিঞ্চিৎ ধান চাউল সাপ্লাই করিতেছেন। সর্ব্বহারা দেশবাসী প্রত্যেক বৎসরই আশা করে থাকে যে এবারে হয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Mr. FAZLUL KARIM: আমাকে আর দুই মিনিট সময় দিন। হয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট পূর্ব্ব প্রতিশ্রুতি অনুযায়ী আমাদের উপর সদয় হবেন কিন্তু সব বিলীন হয়ে যাচ্ছে, যখনই নূতন মন্ত্রিসভা গঠন হতে চলে আমরা তখন খাল খনন হবে আশা নিয়ে বসে থাকি। মন্ত্রিগণও নির্ব্বাচনের সময় প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়ে থাকেন কিন্তু পরে আর খেয়াল করেন না বা দরকার মনে করেন না। বর্ত্তমান মাননীয় প্রধান-মন্ত্রী ৫ বার রায়পুরা গিয়েছেন, ৫ বারই দেশবাসী তার দরবারে খালের জন্য কাকুতি মিনতি করতে কসুর করেনি, তিনিও ৫ বারই প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়ে এসেছেন কিন্তু কাজ কিছুই হয়নি। ফলে জনসাধারণ মন্ত্রিসভার কার্য্যে বিরক্ত হয়ে উঠেছে। কয়েক বৎসর ধরেই কর্ম্মচারিগণ খালের কাছা কেনাবা জরিফ করে আসছেন আর নিজেদের ভ্রমণ বিল পুরাপুরি আদায় করেছেন। দেশবাসী এখন ইহাকে ব্লাফ্ মনে করিতেছে। বাংলা সরকার নাকি ইহার জন্য কিছু টাকা বরাদ্দও করেছিলেন কিন্তু গত বাজেটে আমরা তা না দেখে বিভাগীয় মন্ত্রী বাহাদুরের নিকট অনুসন্ধান করে জানতে পারলাম যে ডাকাতিয়া খালের টাকা বরাদ্দের খাতে এখনও আছে এবং ৪৭ সনে কাজ আরম্ভ করা হবে। কিন্তু আজ পর্য্যন্ত কাজে হাত দেওয়া হয়নি এদিকে সময় চলে যাচ্ছে, আমি বিভাগীয় মন্ত্রী বহাদুরের নিকট অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছি যেন উক্ত খাল অচিরে খনন করে দেশবাসীকে বিপদের কালমেঘ হতে উদ্ধার করেন। যদি খাস মহলের কিছু জমি নষ্ট হবে বলে খাল খনন করা না হয় তাহলে ইহা একান্ত পরিতাপের বিষয়। যতক্ষণ খাল বন্ধ হয়নি খাসমহলও কোন জমির দাবী করতে পারেনি, আর যখন আমাদের দুর্ভাগ্যবশতঃ খালটি ভরাট হয়ে যায় খাস মহলও জমি দাবী করে বাঁকিয়ে বসে অথচ গলে ছুরি গরীব দেশবাসীর। ২০।২৫ একর জমির মমতায় হাজার হাজার একরের ফসল নষ্ট করিতে দেওয়া কিছুতেই বাঞ্ছনীয় নয়। দেশবাসী এখন ধৈর্য্যের শেষ সীমায় পেঁৗছে গেছে। তারা আর সহ্য করতে রাজি নয়, এখন তারা মন্ত্রিসভার নিকট কৈফিয়ৎ চাচ্ছে। আমি আশা করি সরকার সত্বর খাল খনন কার্য্যে মনোনিবেশ করিবেন।

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA : মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, আমাদের অর্থ সচিব যে বাজেট উপস্থিত করেছেন--তার সমালোচনা করবার জন্য অপর পক্ষ থেকে আমাদের প্রতি এক তীব্র আঘাত করা হয়েছে। আমি ব্যক্তিগতভাবে বলতে পারি অর্থ সচিবকে আমি খুব শ্রদ্ধা করি। আমি জানি তিনি তাঁর যৌবনের আরাম বিলাস পরিত্যাগ করে এই কাজের ভার নিয়েছেন দেশের সেবা করবার জন্য--অর্থের লালসা থাকবার তাঁর কোন কারণ নাই। তিনি প্রশংসা পাবার বা হাততালি পাবার আশায় কাজ করছেন এটা আমি মনে করি না। আমি মনে করি, কর্ত্তব্য পালনের জন্য ও দেশের সেবা করবার জন্য তিনি অর্থ-সচিব হয়েছেন। সুতরাং আমরা যারা তাঁর বিরুদ্ধ পক্ষে আছি--তাঁদের তিনি শত্রু বলে মনে করবেন না। আমরা তাঁর কোথায় ভুল ত্রুটি আছে--সেটা দেখিয়ে দেওয়া উচিত বলে মনে করি--যেন তিনি এই ভুল ত্রুটির উপরে

ত পারেন। কোন বিদ্বেষবশতঃ আমরা এই সমস্ত কথা বলি না। আমরা আশা করি তিনি আমাদের আলো-র দিকে তাঁর দৃষ্টি রাখবেন। তিনি আমাদের কথা যদি মনোযোগ দিয়ে শোনেন তা হ'লে হয়ত তাঁর কাজ আরও ন হতে পারে। তিনিও যেমন দেশের সেবা করতে এসেছেন, আমরাও ঠিক তেমনি দেশের সেবা করতে এসেছি। রাও যেমন হিন্দু মুসলমান উভয়ের মন্ত্রী, আমরাও তেমনি হিন্দু মুসলমান সকলের মঙ্গলের জন্য এখানে এসেছি। রাং তিনি যে কাজ করেন, তার মধ্যে কোথায়ও ভুল ত্রুটি চোখে পড়লে, তা আমাদের বলে দেওয়া একান্ত ব্য। তিনি আমাদের শত্রু বলে মনে করবেন না। আমাদের সমস্ত কথায় মনোযোগ দেওয়া তাঁর কর্ত্তব্য। কথা তাঁকে অনেক বার বলেছি। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় এবারের বাজেটেও আমরা দেখলাম না তিনি আমাদের সেই সমস্ত দেখানো জিনিষগুলির কোন কিছু করেছেন। এবারেও আমরা এই অনুরোধ করবো--আমরা যেভাবে কথাগুলি বলি তিনি সেইভাবে গ্রহণ করুন।

তিনি যে বাজেট উপস্থিত করেছেন তার মধ্যে ভাল কথা হয়ত আছে। ভালোর সঙ্গে সঙ্গে এমন কিছু কিছু মন্দ মিশে থাকে যাতে পূর্ণ ভাবে তাঁর প্রশংসা করতে পারি না। এবার তিনি মুসলমানদের শিক্ষার জন্য যে টাকা বরাদ্দ করেছেন তার জন্য আমরা দুঃখিত নই বরঞ্চ সহানুভূতিই আছে। কিন্তু সে টাকা ব্যয় করার যে ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে, তাতে আমাদের আপত্তি আছে। আমরা চেয়েছিলাম দেশের মুসলমান অত্যন্ত দরিদ্র তারা যেন সরকার থেকে সাহায্য পেয়ে নানাভাবে শিক্ষিত হয়--বিশেষ করে আজ তারা বর্ত্তমান জগতের বর্ত্তমান বা আধুনিক শিক্ষায় শিক্ষিত হয়ে উঠুক। কিন্তু তার পরিবর্ত্তে যদি একটি ইউনিভার্সিটি বা বড় একটা কলেজের জন্য সমস্ত টাকা ব্যয় হয় তাহলে বড়লোকের ছেলেরাই চাকরী বাকরীর সুবিধাই পাবে। এমন কি মৌলবী সাহেব পর্য্যন্ত চাকরীর লালসায় আমারই পূর্ব্বে অনেক বক্তৃতা করলেন। দেশের অগণিত জনসাধারণ যারা দুবেলা দুমুঠো অন্ন পাচ্ছে না, শিক্ষার অভাবে যারা মূর্খ হয়ে আছে--তাদের অবস্থা কি হবে? তিনি যদি এই টাকা এমনভাবে ব্যয় করতেন যে শুধু বড়লোক মুসলমানকে না দিয়ে দরিদ্র মুসলমানকে দিতেন সে ভাবে দেওয়াতে হিন্দু মুসলমান একত্রে মিলে লেখাপড়া শিখে দুজনে জীবনের প্রতিযোগিতায় সহযোগিতা করতে পারতো--তাহলে আমি নিন্দা বা আপত্তি করতাম না। শিক্ষার প্রসারে আনন্দই করতাম। ভাববেন না আমি কোন বিদ্বেষবশতঃ নিন্দা করছি। আমরা যেটা ভুল মনে করছি, সেটা দেখিয়ে দেই মাত্র। আমরা বাজেট আলোচনা করে দেখছি--বাজেটের ঘরে ঘরে আমলাদের মাইনার হিসাব দেওয়া আছে। যেখানে যেখানে servant লেখা আছে তার কোন জায়গায় Rs. 20/-or less, Rs. 17/- or less, আর কোন জায়গায় Rs. 16/- or less, কোন লোকের মাইনা অন্ততঃ minimum ১৬৲ টাকাও নয়। এই যদি বাজেটে ব্যবস্থা হয়ে থাকে, তাহলে দরিদ্র যারা সামান্য চাকরী করে দরিদ্র হিন্দু মুসলমান তারা এই সব লোকের মাইনার বেলায় Rs. 16/- or less, শুনলে আমাদের কষ্ট হয়। মন বেদনায় ভরে ওঠে।

আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি খাসমহলের ব্যাপারে ৯০ লক্ষ টাকা আদায় হয়--আর সেখানে খরচ হচ্ছে ২১ লক্ষ টাকা। এটা দেখে ভয় হ'ল--জমিদারী প্রথা উঠে গেলে জমিদারীটা তখন গভর্ণমেণ্টের হাতে গিয়ে পড়বে, দেশের লোকের কি তখন উপকার হবে? খাসমহলের মতই ৯০ লক্ষ টাকা তারা আদায় করতে যদি খরচ করে ২১ লক্ষ টাকা। তাতে প্রজাসাধারণের কি উপকার হবে? না সবই যাবে আদায়ী খরচের বাহুল্যে? এই কথা ভাবতে ভয় হচ্ছে। দুঃখের বিষয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বাজেট তৈরী করতে যে সমস্ত পরিকল্পনা করেছেন--তার এতটুকু ইঙ্গিতও আমাদের আগে জানান নাই। আমরা আঁধারে ঘুরে বেড়াই ও বাজেটের অঙ্কের মধ্যে হাবুডুবু খাই। তাঁর পক্ষের হক সাহেব এর ভেতরের অনেক খবর হয়তো জানেন কাজেই হয়তো তিনি হক কথা বলে ফেলেছেন। আর আঁধারে থাকা আমাদের মুখ দিয়ে যদি দু' একটি বে-হক্ কথা বেরিয়ে যায়--তারজন্য তিনি যেন দুঃখিত না হন।

গত বছর মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলেছিলেন নৌকার একটা ব্যবস্থা করবেন--চাঁদ সদাগরের কথা চৌদ্দ ডিঙ্গা মধুকর আর তো ভেসে উঠলো না--তারা কোথায় ডুবে গেল। মনসা হিন্দুর দেবতা কিন্তু সাপুড়েরও দেবতা। সাপুড়িয়ার মধ্যে মুসলমানও আছে, এই সাপুড়িয়াকে যদি লাগিয়ে দিতে পারে, তাহ'লে দেখা যাবে এই চৌদ্দ ডিঙ্গা মধুকর আবার ভেসে উঠে কিনা। সেই কথা ডাঃ শ্যামাপ্রসাদ ইংরেজী ভাষায় সাধুভাবে বলেছেন। আমি নিতান্ত গেঁয়ো লোক তাই এই কথা সাপুড়ে ও মনসার কথা দিয়ে বলছি।

শিক্ষা ব্যবস্থায় গত বছর থেকে মাত্র এক কোটি টাকা বাড়ান হয়েছে। এই বছর ছাত্র সংখ্যা যা বেড়েছে তার অনুপাতে এই এক কোটি টাকা বাড়িয়ে কি করেছেন? পুলিশের যে ব্যয় ধরেছেন শিক্ষায় তা ধরেন নাই। বলবেন পুলিশের প্রয়োজন আছে। দেখতে পেয়েছিলাম কলিকাতায় দাঙ্গায় পুলিশ কি করেছিল। স্বীকার করি প্রাণটা বড়। কিন্তু শিক্ষাই আমাদের মানুষ করে তুলতে পারে। তাহ'লে আর দাঙ্গা লড়াই হতে পারে না।

আপনাদের সেবার কাজও সার্থক হতে পারে। সময় আর নাই--এতবড় একটা সেবার কথা বলবার সুযো অবসর নাই। আলোচনা করবার সুযোগ তো দিলেন না--আমাদের ডেকেও বললেন না আমি এটা করতে চা তোমাদের কি মত আছে বল? আমরা গ্রামে ফিরে গেলে জিজ্ঞাসা করবে--আমাদের জন্য তোমরা কি কি এলে? আর আমরা বলবো কিছুই করতে পারলাম না। তারা বলবে, এত ভোট দিয়ে পাঠালাম চল্লিশ হ পঞ্চাশ হাজার ভোট দিয়ে আসলাম--তারা একটু পরামর্শও করল না? তাই অন্ততঃ আমাদের মুখ বাঁচাবার পরামর্শ করে বাজেটটা তৈরী করলে অনেকটা কৃতার্থ হতাম।

Mr. FAZLUL QUADIR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to make so observations on the budget of 1947-48, particularly on the following poin (*i*) General Administration and Police, (*ii*) Education, and (*iii*) Industrie

(*i*) General Administration and Police.—From local experience it appe that D. I. B. Branch of the Police Service has miserably failed in detecti political crimes in consequence of which General Administration beca difficult in keeping peace in the country. The inactivity of the Spec Branch, D. I. B., has caused great tension among the Muslims and Hind dragging the people towards communal riot. It is not out of place to menti here some instances in which Hindu youths gave provocations; in spite of the Muslims of Chittagong through the influence of the District Magistr kept quiet and no disturbances took place.

Out of several occurrences I mention a few cases only. On 27 September, 1946, a lecturer, Chittagong College, while returning home about 8 p.m. from the college annual function, was stabbed in a lane. died in the hospital at night. It was a love affair with a girl of the colle and the lecturer used to live in the same house as private tutor of the gi She is aged over 16 years. It appeared that the lecturer was murdered a hired *goonda* who reported to the police on the following morning at abo noon that he was also stabbed on the same night and near the same place occurrence. He got one stabbing wound on his back, but he did not info the police on the same night of occurrence. The Additional Superintende of Police supervised the enquiry at night, but did not care to direct t search of the house of the lecturer and the girl and allowed to pass two da The key which was handed over to the Principal of the college at the ti of recording dying declaration did not suit the lock when the police want to open it later on. The lock was changed in the meantime. Nothi incriminating was found in the house and the girl left for her home in t village. I had a talk with the Additional Superintendent of Police w wanted to thrust all the blame upon the Muslim and to give it a commu colour. Thus the case has been spoiled.

On 5th November, 1946, a person of Noapara, police-station Raoja was caught red-handed with some live bombs while going near by Chatt wari Bari and was handed over to police by a Muslim.

On 8th November, 1946, at about 8 p.m. at night, one Hindu in the ga of a Muslim wearing *lungi* said to be a detenu was caught red-handed wh carrying two tin boxes on the heads of two coolies to the house of a l contractor in Ferringhee Bazar. When challenged by a few Muslims w happened to be near the house of the contractor, he ran to the neighbouri house leaving the coolies on the spot. The accused when running away w caught by a Muslim and handed over to the police who opened the bo with the keys found with the accused and found several kinds of acid. the meantime one bomb was thrown outside from the first floor of the Bos building by the back door, and it was found out on search. After the occu rence I went there and found two boxes and the accused with two cooli

On 17th November, 1946, on the false information of a student the hou of a Professor of the Islamic Intermediate College was searched by poli on the plea that a Hindu girl of Noakhali was abducted and kept by t

Professor. On thorough enquiry by police who engaged three Hindu women to examine the inmates of the house it was found that the information was maliciously false and the prosecution of the informer demanded. Thus the feelings of Muslims were seriously wounded. This is more than provocation.

We have doubts about the activities of released political prisoners since two detenus were caught red-handed with acid boxes on 8th November, 1946.

On 18th November, 1946, there was a bomb explosion in Purbaguzara, Raojan police-station, at night and one person was seriously injured. Previously several bomb explosions took place there, but not a single case was detected by the D. I. B.

On 28th September, 1946, the Nuzampur Muslim H. E. School at Merzorbazar, police-station Mirsarai, was burnt by incendiary fire due to quarrel with the communists. Agitation and retaliation were stopped with great difficulty.

The present District Magistrate is to be congratulated for his able administration and handling of the situation very tactfully and for keeping peace in the district and averting communal troubles. He has thereby earned the everlasting gratitude of the public.

From the budget it appears that a sum of Rs. 54 lakhs has been provided for against the emoluments of the teachers of the primary schools, but I should mention here that there are over 6,000 trained Matriculates, 27,000 other trained teachers and 62,000 untrained teachers bringing the total to 95,000. Adding the leave reservists the total would be, say, one lakh. So, Sir, out of this provision a teacher may get Rs. 57 a year, that is to say, only Rs. 5 a month. But this 54 lakhs includes introduction of free and compulsory primary education in six selected districts of Bengal. So the share to the lot of the poorly paid teachers will be insignificant. If these teachers are to be treated like this how can we expect to build up the nation? It is to be borne in mind that these teachers are the moulders of the nation.

Government could find money for other nation-building departments and for the national park for which Rs. 25,000 has been provided, but may I ask, do the Government consider primary education otherwise? They should bear in mind that teachers of the primary schools are the backbone of the country. The reorganisation of primary education is long overdue. These teachers must be given living wages. I would recommend that Government should provide a sum of Rs. 1,30,00,000 for their increased pay within one year.

Sir, it is well known that Muslim females are very backward in higher education. In the past Government did not spend more than four to five per cent. of the total amount spent on education for Muslim female education. This is a very sorry state of affairs and needs immediate mending. Public revenues are to be spent in relation to the numerical strength of the different communities constituting the population. I would, therefore, suggest that annually a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs should be set apart for expansion of secondary education among Muslim girls.

Government should set up a machinery to work out the scheme. My humble suggestion is that the post of an Inspectress of Schools should be created with two Assistant Inspectresses, one for the Eastern and one for the Western Circles, and the entire fund for the education of Muslim girls—middle and high schools, high and junior madrassas—should be placed with her and the supervision and administration of these schools and madrassas should be vested in her. We want our quota according to population basis. Unless we are separated, Muslim girls' education will remain for ever in oblivion——(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Permit me, Sir, to congratulate the Ministry as a whole and the Hon'ble the Finance Minister in particular for the Budget for 1947-48 that has been presented to us in this House. I

congratulate the Finance Minister not because he has given us everything that we want—the millenium—but because he has promised to give us many more things in the near future. The budget has no doubt its defects, Sir, but it has the prospect of ushering in a good day for Bengal. That will be the red-letter for Bengal.

Sir, I cannot criticize the budget like Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee who has never uttered a good word for a project that has been planned by his opponents. He is not accustomed to do so. He has got by heart three words in his life, namely, "communal", "racial" and "sectional". He is in the habit of using these words when attacking his opponents. So we have not been impressed by what he says. He refers to things that happened during the section 93 régime. He refers to the omissions and commissions of the Syama-Huq Ministry. He has referred to something that took place after the fall of Nazimuddin Ministry which was brought about by his manœuvres. However, Sir, I must give the devil his due. He is a progeny of the Royal Bengal Tiger, for that he thinks he is the cub and he has been posing as such terrorising others. And he is an apology of a Doctor but nothing else of a Royal Bengal Tiger. He has not concealed his pleasure at the terrorisation of the Muslims of Bihar. He also likes to terrorise this Ministry for that the Muslim members and the Muslim League and also those members of the Scheduled Castes and others who are supporting this Ministry. Sir, Muslims know the reply and that is to be found in the holy Koran. It is ولا تقولوا لمن يقتل فى سبيل الله امرات . It means that "we do not take death to be death if it is for a right cause". That is my reply to him when he has given us a threat of the repetition of the massacres of the innocent that took place in Bihar.

We are not going to take retaliation but we know how to do justice. If justice demands, we can go to any length. We shall take to justice whenever the occasion arises, but we shall always keep the balance steady because the Koran enjoins us to keep the balance even. We shall take every measure and we shall never be unjust to anybody. We assure the Hindu people including the Scheduled Castes that we are just and we shall be just to everybody. We shall do everything to relieve pain and give solace. We shall never cry for revenge but we shall also see that every man is brought to justice and we shall never be wanting in that. Our Ministry stands for it and we as members shall uphold the dignity of the Ministry in upholding the dignity of their office.

Here we have heard what Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee has said, but I shall never give him quarter. I shall never care what he said because he has not said just words, and because he is very insincere. He gave threats and trumpeted. For that he is a trumpet, hollow within! A poor teacher was in difficulty with a silly boy. The boy will not utter one word. The teacher himself started spelling it. He made the boy read "বয় হ্রস্বইকারে বি, ড্য আকারে ড়া এবং ল", but when he asked the boy to pronounce the word the boy sillily uttered বেক্কুব. However much the teacher insisted on saying বিড়াল but the boy would not utter the word বিড়াল but would say বেক্কুব. Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee in his life only knows communalism, racialism, sectionalism and all that. I am not going to entertain him.

Sir, then my points are these. I am not also in full sympathy with all the failings of the present Ministry. Failings are there. When I enter the Writers' Buildings, I see evidence of absence of co-operation and co-ordination among the officers of the Writers' Buildings. We justly or unjustly framed the Communal Ratio Rules, but these rules are there. We feel that the rules are just but these are not enforced. We shall call this Ministry unjust because justice has not been done. The Communal Ratio Rules has created a sense of jealousy among our own men in all the departments of the administration because the officers won't work in the correct

line. That is the difficulty I have come across. If anybody works, he wants to work in his own way—just to give to people of his own race, creed and colour. This if the Ministry prevents, there is something of a turmoil and the ultimate result is that he won't work and if he works, he works in the opposite direction and there is trouble. In this way he creates trouble.

There is red-tapism. Although the red tape is gone because all the tapes are white today, but red-tapism is still continuing. The rules are such that any officer who is the head of a department can do mischief, continue to do mischief, insist, persist and never cease to do mischief until you take such action which leads to his dismissal, but dismissal under the rules is very, very difficult.

These are the difficulties under which the Ministry is working.

What have they done, asks Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee. This year they are going to establish three Medical Colleges. I will be cursing him if he says that the establishment of a Medical College in Dacca, the establishment of a college in the site of the Campbell Medical School and then the establishment of another Medical College in Ballyganj is communalism. When Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee says this is communalism, we must accept his diagnosis because he is a Doctor!

(The member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. ABDUL MOMIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was taken by surprise by the speech of a gentleman but the next moment I realised that this befits the taste of the gentleman because he happens to be the President of the Hindu Mahasava. The next point which he seriously attacked is the Muslim League Ministry and he tried to find fault with the Ministry. I tell him in the Bengali proverb শুঁচ বলে চালুন তোর কন এত ছুঁচা।

I take my stand on the floor of the House to support the Government budget whatever it is and I shall vote for it, but, Sir, I shall speak something over the budget that strikes me most. It is a fact that certain unforseen circumstances forced the Government to incur huge expenses which at the same time put a stop to the movement of trade and that has seriously hit the financial condition of Bengal. The present budget of the year 1947-48 is a deficit budget of about 13 crores of rupees. I appreciate the wistful cry of the Finance Minister to make up the deficit from the Centre. This brings to my mind an old poetry of my boyhood: "Standing at the foot boys, gazing at the sky, how can you get up boys if you never try". Really it is an attempt, an honest attempt and a faithful attempt to the old saying, "try, try and try again".

Bengal budget is a deficit budget and that deficit budget is a deficit budget for a long time. Now in its helpless condition the orphan Government is making a frantic effort and its condition is just like an orphan woman who does not like to be divorced though she has to be divorced ultimately. (Laughter.)

Thanks must go to the pocket of the creator of the budget as it is all with rhetoric, physical demonstration is highly alluring and it is so nicely arranged that it covets a man to read and say, "How marvellous". But when a man with the eye of a critic dives deep into the fact, the budget, he will comment, is absolutely nothing. It is just like a cinema show where the opening scene moves with many an alluring object and it gives a fine finishing touch. But the end leaves a clear *purdah* of cloth which speaks categorically to all its audience, it is a show, it is a play, absolutely futile and false. Such is the fate of Bengal budget. Government have suggested to spend 14 crores and 84 lakhs for various development schemes and that indeed is a nice show. Though it becomes a very poor amount when it is splitted up

into different heads, yet I congratulate the Government at least for its pious wish, knowing full well the ill distribution of time and place. Government has allotted 4 lakhs for establishing an Agricultural Farm at Chuadanga. For shifting of Islamia College and purchasing 2,000 acres of land Government has sanctioned about 10 lakhs of rupees and Government has made various other allotments for Islamic education.

These grant exhibitions in the budget help the Government at least to earn the name which it badly needed, the budget for Muslims. All Nationalist papers made a big show. It is a budget for Muslims. But its manifold object is transparent. It is an attempt to regain the old prestige: it is an eyewash of the Government for Noakhali and Tippera police *zulum*, a tactful attempt to pacify and curb the student community.

(The member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 8 p.m. till 4-30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 26th February, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 26th February, 1947, at 4-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 208 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Police firing at Narayanganj.

*102. **Mr. J. C. GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) if he is aware of police firing which took place on 8th August at Narayanganj;

(*b*) who ordered the firing and how many rounds were fired;

(*c*) how many persons were injured as a result of the firing and in what part of the body the injuries occurred;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that one Phanindra Paul, son of Mohim Ch. Paul, a second year student, died as a result of the firing and another Manindra Roy has been seriously injured and also if Gopal Ghosh, a student of class VIII, has also been injured;

(*e*) what led to the firing and particularly what were the measures taken before resorting to firing; and

(*f*) what is the official version and what is the version of the injured party?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No order for firing was given. Eight rounds were fired by 2 Havildars and 3 armed constables in self-defence.

(*c*) Two persons. One died on account of haemorrhage and the other received slight injury on the right forearm.

(*d*) Yes. No. Manindra Roy received injuries on the nose from brickbat. Yes. Gopal Ghosh received slight injury.

(*e*) The mob showered brickbats causing injury to the Subdivisional Police Officer, two police officers and a constable. Due warning was given before the firing was resorted to.

(*f*) The official version is that the police opened fire on the unruly mob in self-defence. The version of the injured party is not known.

Mr. GANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Subdivisional Police Officer, Circle Inspectors and Officer-in-charge, Narayanganj, were present at the spot of firing?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: The Subdivisional Police Officer was present. The Subdivisional Officer came afterwards; and the Officer-in-charge was present.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any other measure was taken to disperse the mob before resorting to firing?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Due warning was given. When the crowd attacked and started brickbatting they did not get time and had to open fire in self-defence.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he held any enquiry as to the justifiability of firing?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Yes, Sir, by the Additional District Magistrate of Dacca.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who gave the due warning which is alleged to have been given before firing?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: The Head Constable of the police party on duty.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, how long before firing took place did the Head Constable give the warning?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, in what terms the warninng was given to the people who had assembled there?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: In the usual term that they must disperse, otherwise firing will be resorted to.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state that after the warning had been given, who gave orders for firing?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: The Head Constable on duty.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to refresh his memory and look at this answer (*b*), viz., "No order for firing was given," and say which part of his statement is true and which is otherwise?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I will explain the position, Sir. No order for firing was given by any superior officer because none was present there. The Head Constable gave the order.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I will repeat my question. Will the Hon''ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to his answer (*b*), viz., "No order for firing was given" vis-a-vis the subsequent answer that the Head Constable gave the order for firing, which part of the statement is to be accepted as truth?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not allow the question. The answer is there. You may draw your own conclusions.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, two answers are given—one in the negative and the other is given otherwise—on the same question.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All the same they are the answers.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Obviously the Hon'ble Minister must have erred. Thy may be *bona fide* mistakes.

Mr. K. NASARULLA: It is not a mistake.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether both these answers are undependable and firing was done wantonly.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That may be your opinion.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who are the officers other than the Subdivisional Police Officer, who were injured?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Sir, the Officer-in-charge was also injured.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the nature of the injury?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: The Subdivisional Police Officer got a very bad cut on the head while the other was hit by brickbats.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether they were admitted into hospital?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: The Subdivisional Police Officer was admitted into hospital.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state for what period?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether throwing of brickbats in almost all the cases is the cause or justificationn for police resorting to fire on a gathering?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not allow this question.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state from what distance the police fired?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state at what part of the body Manindra Roy was injured?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government enquired into the matter?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have already stated that the Additional District Magistrate enquired into the matter.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: With reference to answer (*f*), viz., "The version of the injured party is not known" will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what sort of enquiry they had made if they cannot give the version of the injured party?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have nothing to add.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the police did not aim below waist?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: At the time of firing one may aim low but the shot may go up a bit high.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how Manindra Roy got brickbat injury on his nose? Who threw the brickbats?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Brickbats were thrown from both sides.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: The police were also throwing brickbats.

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Not the police, but the mobs from both sides.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there were two mobs?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Yes, there were two mobs, and quite naturally as it was a case of rioting.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the nature of the other mob?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: The other mob dispersed as soon as warning was given.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if that was the Muslim mob?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Yes.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the place of occurrence?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Near the Railway crossing.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if that is quite a Hindu area?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: It may be; I do not know.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why this Muslim mob assembled in that Hindu area?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Because just near that road there had been erected a pandal for the performance of puja by the Hindus which was ordered not to be erected by the Sub-divisional Officer, and when they erected the Muslim crowd gathered because they were objecting to that.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Muslim mob was allowed to take the law in its own hand and replace the Sub-divisional Officer?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: They were not.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether brickbats which hit Mr. Manindra Roy on his nose came from the mob which assembled there to object to the raising of the Puja pandal?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: It cannot be said by which mob he was hit.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAUMDAR: Did the Subdivisional Officer or any other officer make any attempt to arrest the miscreants who threw the brickbats?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I ask for notice.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Subdivisional Officer was in his office room when the firing took place in Dalias Road?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next question.

Mr. CANENDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, it is a question on which the Government promised to give an answer in two days' time and therefore I withdrew my adjournment motion notice. It is a very important question, and I think I have therefore the right to put further supplementary questions.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thought you put sufficient supplementary questions. All right, you put your questions.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the Muslim mob came there? What was the time?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I ask for notice.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the firing took place?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: It was at 9 p.m.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Muslim mob was there from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: We have no information.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why there was no enquiry about the version of the party injured?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will consider the desirability of making a public judicial enquiry into the matter?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: No, Sir.

Travelling difficulties in the Dacca and Chittagong Express trains and steamers.

***103. Mr. MD. ABDUS SALAM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Transport) Department be pleased to state whether he is aware—

(*i*) that since the last world war the number of passengers in the Dacca Mail and the Chittagong Mail steamers of the India General Navigation and Rivers Steam Navigation, Company, Limited, and also in the Dacca Express and the Chittagong Express trains of the Bengal Assam Railway has increased;

(*ii*) that the number of steamers and trains has not increased proportionately; and

(*iii*) that due to rush of passengers travelling in all classes has become very troublesome, difficult and also unsafe for the property and life of the passengers?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, he proposes to take in the matter?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*)(*i*) The volume of passenger traffic now moving over the India General Navigation and Railway and Rivers Steam Navigation Companies steamer services in conjunction with the Dacca and Chittagong Express trains is greater than that in the immediate pre-war days but there has been no

marked increase in the number of passengers carried in the two Express trains. The steamers are however almost full but do not carry more passengers than permissible in terms of the Survey Certificate issued by Government.

(*ii*) and (*b*) Do not arise.

(*iii*) Travelling difficulties have obviously increased but the conclusion that travel by train and steamer is definitely unsafe on this ground is not correct.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, in view of the answer contained in (*a*) (*i*), namely, that the steamers do not carry more passengers than permissible in terms of the Survey Certificate issued by Government, what is the number of passengers to be accommodated on the basis of per square feet per passenger in terms of the Survey Certificate issued by Government?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I ask for notice.

Mr. MANINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the source of his information to say that the steamers do not carry more passengers than permissible in terms of the Survey Certificate?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: So says the Steamer Company in their report.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the rush of passengers has increased manifold due to the abandonment of the Surma Mail via Serajganj and Jugganathganj Ghat?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Nowadays it is not so.

Mr. BENODE CHANDRA CHAKRABORTY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any agency on behalf of the Government to check the overcrowding of passengers?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I ask for notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to the answer made about the report of the Steamer Company itself, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government took any steps to verify the truth of the report of the Steamer Company?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Yes, Sir. The Commissioner of the Dacca Division verified the report.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Did the Commissioner submit any report?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: He agreed that there was no excess of passengers.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Who was the Commissioner of the Dacca Division at the time?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there have been many accidental deaths due to overcrowding in steamers and trains?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have no such information.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: With reference to answer (*a*)(*iii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what the Government have done to minimise the travelling difficulties?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have explained that owing to the steamers having been taken away for war purposes, we could not help in the matter of providing any more space for any passenger.

Mr. MIHIR LALL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that third class and inter class compartments in the Dacca Mail train carry almost double the number of passengers and a lot of them go on standing?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have no such information.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: In view of the hardships caused to the travelling public, does the Government think of altering the terms of Survey Certificate issued by the Government to Steamer Companies?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: We are getting back old steamers, and as soon as we get them back, these difficulties will not arise.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Sir, my question has not been answered. My question is, does the Government think of altering the terms of Survey Certificate?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: No, Sir.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether, when the steamers are obtained for reinforcing the services, he thinks that they will be enough to relieve overcrowding that exists at present?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Yes, Sir.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that due to lack of accommodation generally the passengers go up and travel on the roof of the trains?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have noticed that.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps were taken for remedying this?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: We cannot take any steps unless and until we get more accommodation.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this system is illegal?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: It is, Sir.

Mr. MUHAMMAD RUKONUDDIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any scheme or any proposal to increase the number of trains and steamers?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: As regards steamers I have said that as soon as they come back they will be placed at the disposal of the Steamer Companies; but as regards trains, I want notice.

Mr. MUHAMMAD RUKONUDDIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how and when these difficulties will be minimised?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: As soon as the steamers come back, and if the crowd is large enough, the Company will give double steamers.

Appointment of District School Board staff.

*104. **Mr. KRISHNA PRASAD MANDAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether District School Board employees are on the same footing with the other Government employees;

(*b*) if so, do the Communal Ratio Rules apply to the appointments of the District School Boards;

(*c*) if not, the reason therefor;

(*d*) what is the percentage of—

(*i*) Scheduled Castes,

(*ii*) Caste Hindus, and

(*iii*) Muslims,

in the matter of appointment of teachers in the Dacca District School Board;

(*e*) how many office menials are serving in Dacca District School Board;

(*f*) whether there is any Hindu or Scheduled Caste; and

(*g*) if not, will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of appointing Hindu or Scheduled Caste office menials?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain): (*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*g*) Do not arise.

(*c*) District School Boards being local bodies the Communal Ratio Rules do not apply to the appointment of their staff.

(*d*)(*i*) 10 per cent.

(*ii*) 20 per cent.

(*iii*) 70 per cent.

(*e*) Five including one darwan and one contingent orderly peon of the President.

(*f*) Yes, there is one Hindu darwan.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that most of the teachers of primary schools are unfit to be teachers?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE: Their fitness or otherwise is tested by the District Inspector of Schools before their appointment.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the teachers are trained or raw recruits from outside?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE: All the teachers are not trained: there are trained and untrained teachers.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: What is the percentage of trained and untrained teachers?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE: I ask for notice.

Hostel accommodation for Muslim students of the Bengal Engineering College.

***105. Mr. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether there is a hostel for the Muslim students of the Sibpore Engineering College?

(*b*) If not, does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of constructing a hostel for the Muslim students of the abovementioned college as early as possible?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Muslim students have been accommodated now in a house, erected for the War Technicians?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain): (*a*) There is a separate hostel for the Muslim students of the Bengal Engineering College.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Due to an increase in the number of students in the Bengal Engineering College, both Muslim and Hindu students of the 1st year class of this session (1946-47) have been accommodated in the barracks erected for War Technicians after necessary repairs and remodelling.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he considers the barracks suitable for hostels?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE: The Principal considered them suitable as a temporary measure.

Khan Bahadur SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any scheme with the Government for another hostel?

Mr. ABDUL KHALEQUE: Yes, there is a scheme for another hostel.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Maintenance of Goomti embankment.

33. Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Irrigation (Embankment) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the crops of large areas of land in the Sadar subdivision of Tippera in police-stations Burichang, Kotwali and Debidwar are destroyed by almost annual visitation of flood due to the breaches of the Goomti Embankment;

(*ii*) that the northern embankment of the river Goomti from Sholanal to Jaffargunge in the Sadar subdivision of this district is not a public embankment; and

(*iii*) that it is neither maintained by the Government nor by the Tripura Raj or the Gangamondal Estate through whose zamindary these areas lie?

(*b*) Do the Government consider the desirability of making this portion as the public embankment in order to prevent breaches in the embankment?

MINISTER in charge of the IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukherjea): (*a*) (*i*) When the zemindary embankment on the right bank is breached, crops of the areas affected are damaged.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) It is not a public embankment and the responsibility of its maintenance rests with the zemindars.

(*b*) The matter is under examination.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is annual visitation of floods on the right bank of the Goomti embankment?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: As I have already stated since the embankment is breached.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Breached every year?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: It may be, I have no definite information.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that though the responsibility, as the answer seems to suggest, of maintenance rests with the zemindars, the zemindars do not maintain this embankment?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Yes, a complaint has been received to this effect.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us how long the matter is under consideration—for hundred years?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: I want notice; I am not aware.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to the Hon'ble Minister's answer (*ii*) and (*iii*) that it is not a public embankment and therefore presumably Government takes no responsibility, will he be pleased to state whether Government considers it its duty to take the responsibility to see that through this breach the lands of the vast number of peasants are not made to suffer?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Government has already taken notice of that.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government have taken with a view to remedy the state of affairs?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: As I have already stated the matter is under urgent consideration of Government.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: What steps have so far been taken as a result of the urgent consideration Government has given to it?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: As I have already stated it is under consideration and as soon as possible necessary steps will be taken.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to let us know the result of the examination? Has the Government examined it?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: It is still under consideration, as I have already stated.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Government has not arrived at any decision up to this time?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Not yet.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give an approximate idea as to when the Government will come to a decision?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Very soon.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Let us know the time.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Within a month.

Maulvi MAJIBAR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that a vast area of the district of Noakhali went under water with the destruction of crops during the last season?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: I submit that that question does not come under this question.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This question is not relevant.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, in view of the fact that the zemindars have been found negligent in the matter of maintenance of the embankments, if Government propose to take action against them under the new Ordinance just passed?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: I cannot say whether any action can at all be taken under the new Ordinance but Government is seriously contemplating of taking necessary steps to render necessary relief.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what effective steps can be taken by the people to realise compensation for their crops being damaged?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: I want notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Has the Hon'ble Minister ever personally investigated the conditions of the banks of the Goomti where these floods are continuing?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: No, Sir, but I hope to do so very soon.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Does the Hon'ble Minister also propose to take a dip in the waters of the river Goomti and bathe there?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not allow that question.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of taking action against the zemindars who are not doing their duty so far as these embankments are concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: As I have already stated, the matter is under consideration and as soon as examination is complete necessary steps will be taken.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the seriousness of the matter have not Government thought it desirable to look for powers for remedy if the zemindars will not do their part of duty?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: As I have already stated, necessary steps and urgent steps will be taken immediately as soon as the examination is complete.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Do the Government know that Government have powers to interfere if the zemindars will not do their part?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Certainly Government will not be failing in its duty.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Do the Government know that Government have powers to do that?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Certainly, Government will take necessary steps.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have tried to take the *bund* under Takabi head?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: As I have already stated, it is still under consideration.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: There is a head called Takabi. Have Government tried to take it under the Takabi head?

The Hon'ble TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: That is a matter which does not concern me.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: As I have already asked, will the Hon'ble Minister please enlighten us when he proposes to visit the Goomti?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: As soon as possible.

Confirmation of temporary Assistant Engineers.

34. Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Works and Buildings Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that temporary Assistant Engineers are to go through Public Service Commission in case of their being confirmed in their posts?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the circumstances under which two temporary Assistant Engineers were confirmed in their posts [*vide* Works and Buildings (Establishment) No. 65, dated the 2nd July, 1946, published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, dated the 11th July, 1946]?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the temporary Assistant Engineers appeared before the Public Service Commission for their confirmation; and

(*ii*) if so, when?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of extending the concession shown to persons referred to in the foregoing clauses to other temporary Assistant Engineers?

MINISTER in charge of the WORKS and BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Dwarkanath Barori): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) The two officers in question were permanent Government servants holding respectively the posts of Superintendent and Head Estimator in the Chief Engineer's Drawing office. These posts were converted to posts of Assistant Engineers—first on a temporary basis and ultimately on a permanent basis. The permanent incumbents of the two permanent posts were thus first appointed as Assistant Engineers temporarily and then permanently. The approval of the Public Service Commission was taken before the officers were made permanent.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names and general qualifications of the temporary Assistant Engineers?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: I want notice.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of the persons concerned?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: I want notice.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to whether the approval of the Public Service Commission was taken before or after the appointments were made?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Before their appointments.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: How long did these two temporary Assistant Engineers act as Engineers on temporary basis?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: I want notice.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Is it not a fact that the moment they began to act as temporary Assistant Engineers their cases came under the purview of the rule which requires them to appear before the Public Service Commission for confirmation?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: After taking the approval of the Public Service Commission they were confirmed.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Is it not a fact that the moment they started working as Assistant Engineers their cases fell within the purview of the rule that requires all such cases to be placed before the Public Service Commission for confirmation?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Yes, it is required after serving for six months.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if these officers appeared before the Public Service Commission?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: These two officers were not required to appear before the Service Commission.

Disposal of criminal cases by Subdivisional Officers of Dinajpur district.

35. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the number of criminal cases and other cases instituted before the three Subdivisional Officers in the district of Dinajpur in the year 1945-46, subdivision by subdivision;

(*b*) how many of them were tried and disposed of by each of the Subdivisional Officers and how many transferred to other Magistrates for trial; and

(*c*) whether judgments were long delayed after trial; if so, what is the number of such cases and the respective dates of hearings and the judgments?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Nagendra Narayan Roy): (*a*) Criminal cases instituted—

Sadar—2,836.

Thakurgaon—2,074 including other cases.

Balurghat—1,526 including other cases.

Other cases instituted—

Sadar—606.

(*b*) Number tried by the Subdivisional Officers—

Sadar—1,921.

Thakurgaon—1,578.

Balurghat—939.

Number transferred—

Sadar—915.

Thakurgaon—496.

Balurghat—587.

(*c*) I do not propose to take up at present this question which involves a considerable time and labour in the collection of materials required. But if the honourable member insists the materials may be called for.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before I put any question I draw your attention to answer to question (*c*)—if the honourable member insists the materials may be called for. I do not know how I could indicate my insistence that I wanted a reply except by putting the question whether the judgments were long delayed after trial; if so, what is the number of such cases and the respective dates of hearings and the judgments because I thought that this portion of the question was very important in the sense that if judgments are delayed after hearings, judgments may be bad because the Trying Magistrate forgets everything. So I want to know how I could indicate or members can indicate their insistence. Are we to go to the Ministers and by dragging them indicate our insistence?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can put another question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, my quota is limited.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you like, you can put another question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I want to know this. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us how does he advise us to indicate our insistence on replying to a question?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: By a fresh notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister please enlighten us if he will not reply to a question in the same manner as he has done now by telling us that the records will be brought if the honourable member insists on doing that, because the language of the question will not differ from the language that is there.?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: Sir, I have already answered the question that it will involve considerable time and labour, but if the honourable member insists, the materials may be called for.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, I suggest that this question may be held over, as the Hon'ble Minister has assured that he will bring the records if I insist. I think I have shown my insistence.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not like to hold over the question. You can put another question by giving a fresh notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the judgments were delayed long after the trial?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: I cannot say now.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: This is also asking for notice. I may take it that I am entitled to have an answer to this question.

Allotment of corrugated iron sheets for Chittagong district.

36. Mr. ALI AHMED CHOWDHURY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the present number of corrugated iron sheet dealers in Chittagong;

(*ii*) what is their nationality;

(*iii*) how many bundles of corrugated iron sheets were allotted for Chittagong during the first 6 months of the year, 1946; and

(*iv*) how these are distributed?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a full list of recipients of ten sheets of corrugated iron with address and full particulars?

MINISTER in charge of the CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Gofran): (*a*)(*i*) Twenty-five.

(*ii*) Hindu—15. Muslim—10.

(*iii*) Nine thousand and two hundred bundles.

(*iv*) Corrugated iron sheets are distributed through the established channels of trade, i.e., established *bona fide* dealers recommended by the local authorities. Sales of corrugated iron sheets to consumers are controlled by the provisions of the Iron and Steel (Control of Production and Distribution) Order, 1941, promulgated by the Central Government. Under the provisions of this order a dealer was permitted to sell to a customer sheets at the controlled rate prescribed by the Iron and Steel Controller in quantities not exceeding 10 cwts. (i.e., 5 bundles approximately) per month. This quantity limit was removed by an amendment to the Iron and Steel (Control of Production and Distribution) Order, which came into effect on 1st April, 1946. Nine thousand and two hundred bundles of corrugated iron sheets were allotted to approved dealers (list laid on the Table) by the Iron and Steel Controller in January/June, 1946.

(*b*) The information is not readily available.

List referred to in reply to clause (*a*) (*iv*) *of unstarred question No. 36.*

ALLOTMENT OF CORRUGATED IRON SHEETS MADE IN THE FIRST PERIOD OF 1946 FOR THE DISTRICT OF CHITTAGONG.

	Bundles. G. C. sheets.
(1) Messrs. D. C. Ghosal, Chittagong ...	200
(2) Messrs. Haji Nurali Saudagar, Chittagong ...	200
(3) Messrs. Jasadalal Ghosal, Sadar Ghat Road, Chittagong ...	200
(4) Messrs. Lalji Sundarji, Khatunganj, Chittagong ...	200
(5) Messrs. Ganeshmull Labhuram, c/o Lalji Sundarji, Chittagong ...	200
(6) Messrs. Haji Habib Haji Peer Md., Chittagong ...	200
(7) Messrs. B. C. Sarkar and B. K. Chowdhury, Chaktai, Chittagong ...	200
(8) Messrs. Sadananda Ghosh, Chittagong ...	200
(9) Messrs. Biswambar Chowdhury & Sons, Chittagong ...	200
(10) Nabin Chandra Mohajan, Khatunganj, Chittagong ...	200
(11) Barada Chandra Das Choudhury, Chaktai, Chittagong ...	200
(12) Messrs. Prabarak Sangha, Chittagong ...	200
(13) Messrs. Shyamlal Ghosal, Chittagong ...	200
(14) Messrs. A. S. Jusab Bros., Chittagong ...	200
(15) Messrs. Adman Haji Peer Md. Essack, Chittagong ...	200
(16) Messrs. Hossen Kassam Dada, Chittagong ...	200
(17) Haji Ali Abbas & Bros., Chittagong ...	200
Total ...	3,400

ALLOTMENT OF CORRUGATED IRON SHEETS MADE IN THE SECOND PERIOD OF 1946 (APRIL-MAY-JUNE) FOR THE DISTRICT OF CHITTAGONG.

	Bundles. G. C. sheets.
(1) Messrs. Jasoda Lal Ghosal, Sadar Ghat Road, Chittagong ...	400
(2) Messrs. D. C. Ghosal, Chittagong ...	200
(3) Messrs. Haji Habib Haji Peer Md., Chittagong ...	200
(4) Messrs. Sadananda Ghosh, Chittagong ...	200
(5) Messrs. Biswambhar Chowdhury & Sons, Chittagong ...	200
(6) Messrs. Haji Nurali Saudagar, Chaktai, Chittagong ...	200
(7) Messrs. B. C. Sarkar and S. K. Chowdhury, Chaktai, Chittagong ...	200
(8) Messrs. Barada Ch. Das Chowdhury, Chittagong ...	200
(9) Messrs. Nabin Chandra Mahajan, Khatunganj, Chittagong ...	200
(10) Messrs. Prabartak Sangha, Chittagong ...	200
(11) Messrs. Haji Ali Abbas & Bros., Chittagong ...	200
(12) Messrs. Hossen Kassam Dada, Ashadganj, Chittagong ...	400
(13) Messrs. Adam Haji Peer Md. Essack, Khatunganj, Chittagong ...	400
(14) Messrs. A. S. Jusab Bros., Madarbari, Chittagong ...	400
(15) Messrs. Shyamlal Ghosal, Sadar Ghat Road, Chittagong ...	400
(16) Messrs. Lalji Sundarji, Khatunganj, Chittagong ...	400
(17) Messrs. Ganesh Mull Labhuram, Khatunganj, Chittagong ...	400
(18) Messrs. Bhupendra Mohan Sen, Cox's Bazar, Chittagong ...	400
(19) Messrs. Durgapada Shivapada Chowdhury, Khatunganj, Chittagong ...	200
(20) Messrs. Pranhari Sen, Chaktai and Torribazar, Chittagong ...	200
(21) Messrs. K. P. Roy Chowdhury, Chittagong ...	200
Total ...	9,200

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the procedure that Government has adopted in distributing corrugated iron sheets in mofassal areas?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: At present we have fixed certain District quotas and the quantities of C.I. sheets are sent to districts through the stockists. Then the District Controller will distribute those quotas.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state wherefrom permits are issued to the consumers—public in general?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: By the District Controller.

Mr. MUHAMMAD RUKONUDDIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, if the population is the only basis for distribution and allotment of C.I. sheets to the districts per month, whether communal ratio is observed everywhere in distributing C.I. sheets?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: No. Certainly the basis of distribution would be population. Some weightage also will be given according to the quantity of C.I. sheets that are consumed by some of the Districts.

Maulvi AKBAR ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how much of the allotted quota of C.I. sheets was really supplied to the dealers?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: I want notice.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the District Controller is only the recommending authority and not the permit issuing authority? A dealer has first got to apply to the District Controller. His application has got to be recommended by the District Controller and then the dealer has to come to this city, which entails a cost not less than hundreds of rupees. Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that this procedure is at present in vogue?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: At present certainly this is the procedure. We have already approached the Government of India to give us authority to authorise our District Controller to issue the permits.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that just now hundreds and thousands of people from mofassal are moving about in Calcutta streets to get a few C.I. sheets, but they are not getting them?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: Yes; a large number of applications have been received.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that no permit is necessary for purchasing C.I. sheets?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: No; that is not true.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is a colossal inconsistency about having the stock in the District with the District dealer whereas for the permit one has got to come to Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: As I have already said permits could be issued by the District Controller.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that while hundreds of undesirable candidates are getting C.I. sheets and selling them in the black market, really deserving candidates are not getting them at all?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: I have no such information.

Mr. ABDUL HAKIM MIA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is considering the desirability of asking the Controller of Steel and Iron not to issue permits pending the order of the Government of India?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: No.

Mr. Md. KHUDA BUKHSH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the District Controller will be authorised to issue permits to the consumers?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: As soon as we get the authority from the Government of India.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state from which date the District Controller has been authorised to issue permits?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: I have already said that we have not yet got the authority from the Government of India. As soon as we get the authority, we shall authorise our District Controllers to issue permits.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Then I presume that the first part of the answer which the Hon'ble Minister gave is simply dependent on his imagination.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a question.

Mr. HARAN CHANDRA GHOSH CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if permits are required for individual purchasers?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: Yes.

Mr. NIKUNJA BIHARI MAITI: Is the Hon'ble Minister perfectly aware that individuals require permits when they are to buy these C.I. sheets?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: Yes.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that individual purchasers have got to have no permits for purchasing C.I. sheets?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: I am not aware.

Working hours of cloth ration shops in Calcutta.

37. Mr. SUKUMAR DUTT: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that cloth ration shops in Calcutta are opened at 8 a.m.?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that it causes great inconvenience to persons who are to attend office to purchase their cloths?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of issuing directions to open cloth ration shops in Calcutta at 7 a.m.?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of keeping the shops open on Sundays and close it on any other day of the week instead?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: (*a*) and (*b*) The present working hours of cloth ration shops in Calcutta are as follows:—

(*i*) For cloth retailers who are members of the Calcutta Trades Association the working hours are—

Week days—9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4-30 p.m.

Saturdays—9 a.m. to 12 noon.

(*ii*) For cloth retailers who are not members of the Calcutta Trades Association the working hours are—9 a.m. to 12 noon and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

When a day is observed as a half working day the working hours are either from 9 a.m. to 12 noon or 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

(*c*) For the convenience of persons attending office we had suggested to the cloth retailers that the opening hour be fixed at 8 a.m. instead of 9 a.m. Very strong representations were received from the Cloth Retailers' Association. It was pointed out that 8 a.m. (Bengal time), particularly in winter, is too early to open shops. The shop assistants have to make their

own household arrangements before coming to the shop and many of them have to come from distant places. In order to enable office-goers to visit the shops the closing hour has been fixed at 7 p.m.

(*d*) In view of the approaching winter it will not be possible to include the cloth retailers to agree to open their shops at 7 a.m. or even 8 a.m. (Bengal time).

(*e*) The question of insisting on the majority of cloth ration shops being kept open on Sundays is under consideration.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: With reference to answer (*e*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have arrived at any decision by now?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: No. We have not come to any decision as yet.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government have at all considered the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: Yes.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: In view of the answer just given will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what decision Government have arrived at?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: We have not finally decided as yet.

Mr. SATISH CHANDRA BOSE: In view of answer (*c*) will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of abolishing Bengal time?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. SATISH CHANDRA BOSE: The answer is "It was pointed out that 8 a.m. in winter is too early to open shops". In view of answer (*c*) will the——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Bose, that question does not arise.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA : মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি—কাপড় আনবার জন্য যে সময় নির্দ্দিষ্ট করে দিয়েছেন, তাতে যারা অফিসে চাকরী করে তারা অফিসে না গিয়ে দোকানে লাইন দিয়ে দাঁড়িয়ে থাকলে সেদিন আর অফিসে আসা চলে না, তাদের সেদিনের মাইনা দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা না করে এ রকম সময় করা উচিত হয়েছে কি না, সে সম্বন্ধে তাঁরা ভাববেন কি?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: For that reason traders who are not members of the Calcutta Trades Association have been given permission to keep their shops open up to 7 p.m.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA : অফিস থেকে বেরিয়ে বাসে উঠে বাড়ী যেতে যেতে ন'টা বাজে সে খবর তিনি রাখেন কি?

(There was laughter but no answer.)

Mr. Md. KHUDA BUKHSH: Arising out of his answer (*d*), namely, in view of the approaching winter, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has the winter of 1947-48 in mind?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: No.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Silting up of the Brahmaputra in Mymensingh district.

*106. **Mr. MONORANJAN DHAR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Irrigation Department aware—

(*i*) that the silting up of the river Brahmaputra running through the Mymensingh district is generally causing very serious and progressive deterioration of the district as regards health and productivity of the soil;

(*ii*) that last year the abnormal silting up of the river near the town of Mymensingh threatened the very water-supply of the town; and

(*iii*) of the demand of the Mymensingh public for resuscitation of the river Brahmaputra so as to ensure the navigability thereof?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether there is any scheme for this purpose under consideration of the Government;

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that in recent past a proposal for a barrage scheme at the offtake near Bahadurabad *ghat* was adopted and partly executed by the Government;

(*iii*) whether that project has been abandoned thereafter; and

(*iv*) if not, at what stage of implementation the project stands at present?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: (*a*) (*i*) The silting up of the river has affected the health of the district. The productivity of the soil has also been affected in the immediate vicinity of the river.

(*ii*) Some local silting occurred near the pumping station, but there was no apprehension of immediate breakdown of the water-supply system of the Mymensingh town.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) A scheme is under investigation.

(*ii*) (1) The barrage scheme is under investigation.

(2) No.

(*iii*) Does not arise.

(*iv*) Hydraulic data are being collected.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long it will take for the investigation to be completed?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: As soon as the work is finished.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: In view of the answer (*b*)(*i*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the nature of the scheme under consideration?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: It is a technical subject and I want notice.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long the Government will take to complete the investigation and give practical effect to it?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Government is anxious to complete the investigation as quickly and as early as possible.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the reason for abandoning the barrage scheme that was previously taken up at the offtake near Bahadurabad Ghat?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Sir, I submit this question does not arise.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain to which item of the question the answer (2) refers?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: It refers to (*b*) (*ii*).

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to the Hon'ble Minister's answer that the scheme being of a technical nature he wants notice, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who is the technical expert of Government who is now considering the scheme as mentioned in answer (*b*)(*i*)?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: The Irrigation Engineer.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any Special Irrigation Engineer has been deputed to investigate into the scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: It is being done under the guidance of the Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, by the Superintending Engineer of that area.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the direction of Government regarding the date by which the report is to be submitted?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: I ask for notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware at the present moment what the precise intentions of Government are with regard to the date of completion of the scheme and the execution of it into work.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: As I have already stated it will be put into execution as soon as the investigation is completed.

Proposal for erection of sluice gate in Gazna Bil, Pabna district.

***107. Mr. SURES CHANDRA DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a scheme for erecting sluice gate in Gazna Bil, in police-station Sujanagore of Sadar subdivision of the district of Pabna, is pending for a long time?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the extent and area of the *bil*?

(*c*) How far has this scheme progressed and why has it been held up as yet?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to enquire into the necessity of constructing a sluice gate in Gazna Bil for protection of the crops of the area from sudden inundation, to provide necessary funds for the purpose and see that this project is materialised at a very early date; if not, why not?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: (*a*) No.

(*b*) The area of the *bil* is about 32 square miles.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) The scheme for constructing a sluice gate at the outfall of the Gazna Bil to avoid sudden inundation of crops is considered impracticable as the whole area goes under water to a depth of 20 feet or more during the rains and it is fed from various water courses during the flood period thus causing a huge accumulation of water over this area.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় (*d*) প্রশ্নের যে উত্তর দিয়াছেন সে অনুসন্ধানটী কবে হ'য়ে সাব্যস্ত হয়েছে যে এই কাজটী চলতে পারে না ?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: অনেকদিন পূর্বের।

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: কতদিন পূর্বের ?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: এ বিষয়ে আমি নোটীস চাই।

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: তাহ'লে গভর্ণমেন্ট চেষ্টা করবেন কিনা এই বিলটী উঠিৎ করে যাতে ঐ অঞ্চলে ধান বেশী ক'রে হ'তে পারে ?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: নিশ্চয়ই।

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: তাহ'লে কতদিনে চেষ্টা ক'রবেন ?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: যত সত্বর পারা যায়।

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to his answer to (*d*) whether it is the intention of Government that it is not possible to have any plan for the improvement of the Bil area?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Of course that was the opinion of the experts then.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is the position that if there is a large inundation of water the Irrigation Department cannot fight that evil?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Each case has got to be considered on its own merits.

Duties of overseers and assistant engineers.

***108. Mr. BIPIN BIHARI GANGULI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Irrigation and Waterways Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that—

(*i*) Irrigation and Waterways Directorate is very much short of overseers;

(*ii*) a number of overseers has been given charge of different important irrigation subdivisions exclusively meant for assistant engineer or assistant executive engineer; and

(*iii*) a number of assistant engineers has been given no important work to do or they are to do some survey and investigation works?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, do the Government contemplate to take immediate steps to remove such anomalies?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: (*a*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) No subdivision is exclusively meant for any particular class of officers. Twenty senior overseers are at present holding charge of subdivisions.

(*iii*) No. Eight temporary assistant engineers are undergoing the usual training in departmental accounts and works as a preliminary to their being placed in charge of subdivisions. Three of them have completed the training and will be placed in charge of subdivisions very shortly. The remaining officers will also be placed in charge of subdivisions as and when they complete their training.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Promotion of assistant engineers to the rank of assistant executive engineers.

***109. Mr. MONORANJAN DHAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Irrigation and Waterways Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that assistant engineers holding substantive appointment are ineligible for promotion to the rank of assistant executive engineers?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the circumstances under which one permanent assistant engineer was confirmed as assistant executive engineer as per notification No. 59, dated the 8th July, 1946, *vide Calcutta Gazette*, dated the 18th July, 1946?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any advertisement was made in any newspaper inviting applications for the post of assistant executive engineer; and

(*ii*) if so, when?

(*d*) If the answers to (*c*) are in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of extending the concessions shown to the person referred to above to the other permanent assistant engineers.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) In January, 1940, the Public Service Commission recommended certain candidates including the candidate in question for the posts of assistant executive engineers and assistant engineers. As the vacancies in the rank of assistant executive engineers were limited, the candidates above the one in question were appointed as assistant executive engineers and the candidate in question was appointed as assistant engineer. Subsequently, certain other vacancies in the posts of assistant executive engineers meant for other communities were advertised by the Public Service Commission in July, 1940. At that time the ban on the appointment of permanent assistant engineers as assistant executive engineers was suspended. As the Public Service Commission did not get men of the required communities, they recommended certain candidates, who applied for the posts of assistant engineers, for appointment to the posts of assistant executive engineers. The candidate in question had no occasion to apply in July, 1940, as he did not belong to the communities from which the applications were asked for and he was already an assistant engineer. His case was, therefore, not considered by the Public Service Commission for the vacancies in the posts of assistant executive engineers. The top man recommended by the Public Service Commission for the post of assistant executive engineer was considered by the Public Service Commission inferior to the candidate in question in January, 1940, and was placed below him in their order of preference at that time. An anomaly, therefore, arose which was rectified by the appointment of the candidate in question as assistant executive engineer.

(*c*) No fresh advertisement was necessary.

(*d*) No question of concession arises in the circumstances stated.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of the particular Engineers concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Unfortunately I got the file regarding this question only here. I want notice.

Re-employed retired engineers.

***110. Mr. ASHUTOSH MULLICK:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Irrigation and Waterways Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of retired engineers re-employed in the Irrigation and Waterways Department since 1941 to date;

(*ii*) the number of them who are still continuing;

(*iii*) the number of them who have been given promotions; and

(*iv*) the number of supersessions of claims of other permanent engineers duly qualified in every respect?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether one Mr. D. N. Sen Gupta, I.S.E. (Retired), re-employed as Personal Assistant to Chief Engineer (East), Irrigation and Waterways Directorate, has been promoted as Superintending Engineer?

(*c*) If so, whether he has superseded the claims of any other permanent and qualified engineers of the Directorate?

(*d*) If the answers to (*a*) (*iv*), (*b*) and (*c*) are in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of—

(*i*) taking any steps into the matter; and

(*ii*) if so, what?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: (*a*) (*i*) Eight.

(*ii*) Five.

(*iii*) One at present.

(*iv*) None.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Permanent officers are being promoted as and when they become qualified and fit.

Bejoy and Gaznavi cuts in Chuadanga subdivision, Nadia.

***111. Mr. NAWAJESH AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state whether the Bejoy and Gaznavi cuts within Chuadanga subdivision in Nadia are in working condition?

(*b*) If not, do the Government consider the desirability of taking immediate steps for the re-excavation?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: (*a*) Owing to low floods in the Mathabhanga in recent years, the cuts are not functioning as satisfactorily as was expected.

(*b*) The cuts will get silted up again soon after re-excavation. Unless the parent channel, the Mathabhanga, can be improved, it would not be possible to keep the cuts in proper regime. A comprehensive scheme for the improvement of all the principal rivers of Central Bengal including the Mathabhanga, is under investigation.

Mr. NAWAJESH AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government consider the desirability of taking immediate steps in this respect?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Certainly, Sir.

Mr. NAWAJESH AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long will it take them to take steps?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: I cannot tell offhand any specific time, but I can say that no time will be unnecessarily wasted.

Mr. NAWAJESH AHMED: With reference to answer (*b*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long Government will take to make a comprehensive scheme for the improvement of the rivers?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Sir, I am afraid I cannot state any specific time but as I have already stated no time will be wasted unnecessarily.

Incumbents of certain high posts under Board of Revenue.

***112. Mr. ABDUR RASCHID MAHMOOD:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Land and Land Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the name of the Secretaries of the Board of Revenue, and the Revenue Department;

(*ii*) whether there was ever any Muslim appointed as Secretary to the Board of Revenue;

(*iii*) if not, why not; and

(*iv*) whether Government are considering the desirability of appointing a Muslim as Secretary to the Board of Revenue?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the post of Secretary to the Board of Revenue and Secretary to the Director of Land Records, Bengal, is being held by the same person?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(*d*) Is it a fact that an Additional Secretary has been appointed for the Board of Revenue? If so, why?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long the present incumbent has been holding the post of Secretary to the Board of Revenue?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlur Rahman): (*a*)(*i*) Khan Bahadur Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Secretary, Board of Revenue; Rai S. Das Gupta Bahadur, Additional Secretary, Board of Revenue; Khan Sahib Khalil Ahmed, Second Additional Secretary, Board of Revenue.

There is at present no separate Secretary to the Land and Land Revenue Department.

Mr. S. K. Haldar, C.I.E., I.C.S., Member, Board of Revenue, and Mr. A. S. Larkin, C.I.E., I.C.S., Additional Member, Board of Revenue, are *ex-officio* Secretaries to Government in the Land and Land Revenue Department.

(*ii*) Yes; Khan Bahadur Saiyed Md. Nasiruddin, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, was the Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue from 4th December, 1905, to 16th April, 1906.

The present Secretary is also a Muslim.

(*iii*) and (*iv*) Do not arise.

(*b*) and (*c*) There is no post of Secretary to the Director of Land Records, Bengal.

The posts of the Secretary to the Board of Revenue and the Director of Land Records and Surveys, Bengal, are now held by different officers.

(*d*) Two Additional Secretaries have been appointed. These appointments were necessary to cope with the increased volume of work devolved on the Board after the Reformed Constitution and also as a result of the implementation of the recommendations of the Administration Enquiry Committee, 1944-45.

(*e*) Since 8th January, 1947.

Alleged misconduct of Subdivisional Officer, Bishnupur.

***113. Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Chief Minister's (General Administration) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that a pleader clerk had been assaulted by a court constable at the instance of Subdivisional Officer, Bishnupur, district Bankura; and

(*ii*) whether a representation has been made to the Chief Secretary, Bengal, regarding the alleged misconduct of the Subdivisional Officer, and demanding his immediate transfer?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken in the matter by the department concerned?

(*c*) Does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of holding judicial inquiry into the matter?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*)(*i*) This is not a fact.

(*ii*) No such representation has been received by the Chief Secretary.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) No.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: With reference to answer (*a*)(*i*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any actual enquiry was made in this connection?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The fact is that the Subdivisional Officer asked the Muktear to leave his court for some undesirable conduct on his part. The Muktear Bar made a representation to the District Magistrate and the District Magistrate had a talk over the matter with the Subdivisional Officer and the Secretary and the President of the Muktear Bar. It is reported that the matter has been treated as closed.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the source of his information?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The report from the District Magistrate.

Filling up of posts of Sergeants of the Calcutta Police.

***114. Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether some posts of Sergeants of the Calcutta Police fell vacant recently;

(*b*) that they were open for persons who served in the military in the World War just over;

(*c*) if so, what was the number of vacancies;

(*d*) whether candidates were invited for interview in the month of July;

(*e*) if so, what was the number of such candidates;

(*f*) how many of them were Muslims and how many of them were Hindus;

(*g*) how many of them were residents of Bengal;

(*h*) whether any such candidates were certified and recommended as fit by the Resettlement Officer at Jubbulpore I.O.S. record;

(*i*) if so, what are the names of such candidates, and what districts do they belong to;

(*j*) whether any of them have been taken in;

(*k*) if so, who are they;

(*l*) if not, why not;

(*m*) is it a fact that claims of the Bengalis are being superseded by the appointment of Anglo-Indians only; and

(*n*) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*), (*b*) and (*d*) Yes.

(*c*) Eight.
(*e*) Twenty-six.
(*f*) Nil.
(*g*) Nine.
(*h*) No.
(*i*) to (*l*) Do not arise.

(*m*) and (*n*) No, as Europeans and Anglo-Indians only are eligible for ppointment to these posts.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister e pleased to state whether they think it desirable to Indianise the posts of 'alcutta Sergeants?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Unfortunately in the matter of Sergeants, no.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be leased to state why the posts of Sergeants are at all necessary?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Because they are found very useful in controlling affic and other matters.

Mr. MOHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble linister be pleased to state whether he is aware that some of the Sergeants ooted several shops during the Calcutta Riot?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Government has no notice of it.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be leased to state why the posts are reserved for Anglo-Indians and Europeans nly?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Because they have been found suitable for this ost.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister e pleased to state if Government think that Indians are less competent than Europeans and Anglo-Indians?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: In the matter of Sergeants, it is thought that nglo-Indians and Europeans will manage much better than others.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble linister be pleased to state whether he thinks that more efficiency is ecessary to be a Sergeant than to be a Minister?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have nothing to say.

Checking of relief accounts at Contai.

***115. Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operation, Credit and Relief Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether an audit office has been established at Contai to check the accounts of the money spent in relief both in grains and cash by way of relief grants at Contai subdivision during 1942 to 1944;

(*ii*) whether the audit officer is under the Accountant-General, Bengal, or under the Revenue Department which spent the above sum;

(*iii*) whether the audit office has been able to detect any malpractices on examination of the account; and

(*iv*) if so, how many cases of malpractices have been detected?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that Assistant Relief Officer of Ramnagar thana in Contai has been charged of malpractices about six months ago;

(*ii*) if so, what action has been taken against him up till now;

(*iii*) if no action has been taken, what is the reason therefor;

(*iv*) whether in the gratuitous relief muster roll one man's finger print has been placed against names of different recipients of relief; and

(*v*) whether in test-relief work roll finger prints of the same labourers are different in different pages of the book?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of giving a free hand to the audit department for detecting malpractices?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. A. F. M. Abdur Rahman): (*a*)(*i*) No audit office has been established at Contai to check the relief accounts but the relief office of the Subdivisional Officer has been expanded by the appointment of a considerable number of clerks and an accountant deputed from the office of the Accountant-General, Bengal, to compile the relief accounts of Contai subdivision for the purpose of rendering necessary accounts to the Accountant-General, Bengal.

(*ii*) The staff is under the administrative control of the Collector of Midnapore and is paid from the Relief budget.

(*iii*) Some cases of malpractices were suspected during compilation of the accounts.

(*iv*) Malpractices have been suspected in respect of the accounts of each of the Assistant Relief Officers at Bhaitgarh and Henria and in three cases in respect of Assistant Relief Officer, Ramnagar.

(*b*) (*i*) The Assistant Relief Officer has not been charged of malpractices but in three cases malpractices have been suspected.

(*ii*) The cases in which malpractices were suspected were promptly referred to the local police for detailed investigation. As the cases which are very complicated relate to old accounts and involve a number of rural people of different localities, it has not yet been possible for the police to submit their reports.

(*iii*) Does not arise.

(*iv*) Yes, in some cases the thumb impression of an adult member of a family was accepted against the names of all members of the same family to avoid unnecessary harassment and hardship to women, children and invalids of the family.

(*v*) Some such cases were suspected and they have been referred to the local police for investigation.

(*c*) Yes. An officer who was a Deputy Accountant-General has recently been appointed by the Finance Department to regularise the expenditure incurred.

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how much money has been spent for relief work in Contai?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: It is not possible to answer the question offhand.

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Auditor is working under the direction of Collector of Midnapore?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: He is working under the direction of the Subdivisional Officer, Contai.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the officers against whom charges of mal-practices were brought are in service still?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether cases against them have been dropped?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: No.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of the persons who were charged with mal-practices?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I ask for notice.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(*After Adjournment.*)

General discussion of the Budget.

Mr. J. H. METHOLD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the European Party view with no little concern the annual presentation of deficit Budgets in Bengal. We regard it as essential that every effort should be made to impress upon the Government of India the necessity of revising the financial settlement. We realise that the present may be a difficult time in which to approach the Government of India, but none-the-less it must be done as the application for *ad hoc* subventions is a most unsatisfactory system, and of necessity, must leave the Finance Minister in an uncertainty as to how to make up his Budget. I do not know, Sir, what percentage of the Income Tax revenues derive from Bengal but it would be safe to suggest, I think, that it forms a very large proportion of the whole and far exceeds the amount returned to the province. Again, Sir, it should be urged that in fairness Bengal should receive the Jute Export Duty in full, and not a mere portion of it. In return, Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister must undertake to put the Province's own house in order. It is obvious for instance that there is a great deal of room for economy in expenditure under such headings as "Extraordinary Charges in India", Miscellaneous and Famine.

Now, Sir, in his Budget statement the Hon'ble Finance Minister has indicated that he expects an increase of Rs. 50 lakhs from the Sales Tax and 25 lakhs from Excise. These calculations are dependent on normal conditions in trade and peace and tranquillity in the Province. With regard to the former we are extremely sceptical as so long as the present epidemic of labour strikes continues, trade cannot prosper as we all would wish. While

we all hope for peace throughout the Province to assist in the realization of the second, we feel it is optimistic to budget for more than was realized in 1946-47. The extension of prohibition and the continuing increase in duty on Spirits must one day reach the stage of killing the goose that lays the golden egg. In the Budget statement we have been unable to find any explanation of the debt position despite many references to the load of unproductive debt. In 1946 this debt was estimated at 46 crores and we should like to have a statement from the Hon'ble Minister telling us what this figure has now reached and what steps he contemplates taking to remedy the situation. We note on the other hand that there is a somewhat doubtful asset in the shape of outstanding Loans and Advances made by the Provincial Government amounting to Rs. 5 crores of which nearly 2½ crores are outstanding on account of loans to cultivators. No progress is being made with the recovery of these loans to cultivators and we would like to suggest to the Hon'ble Finance Minister that a far stricter policy as regards the issue and recovery of these loans should be followed and all loans should be recovered when the crops are harvested in the year in which they are advanced. We cannot expect subventions from the Government of India if we do not take proper measures to recover our own assets. We can also find no explanation of the foodgrains transactions during the current year and the account of these transactions under the head "Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes of State Trading" gives no information as to how the loss of nearly 2½ crores during the current year was incurred. Closely allied to this is the expenditure on the Department of Civil Supplies which to us seems definitely excessive. The rationing of Calcutta alone from the latest figures available would appear to cost about 1 crore 20 lakhs, which seems a very heavy price to pay for the expensive and uncertain ration received by the citizens of Calcutta. We are glad to see that Government have taken up the question of economy in this Department, but this would suggest that what is wanted is an overhaul of the expenditure by business men with experience of the foodgrains trade. We would also urge that as an essential preliminary to this overhaul, proper trading accounts of the foodgrains transactions should be placed before this House. We and other Hon'ble Members from both sides of the House have been urging this for years without any apparent effect. Is it too much to hope that before the Demand for Extraordinary Charges is moved, proper trading accounts will be placed in our hands? The Department possess a well equipped financial section. It is surely within their capacity to produce intelligible trading accounts. We have noted that it is proposed to spend a sum of Rs. 54 lakhs on refugees from Bihar and 61½ lakhs on refugees in other parts of the Province in the coming year. We should like to be told, Sir, how long it is the intention of Government to continue to support these refugees out of Provincial Revenues and whether it is intended to repatriate them to where they originally came from. With regard to those who have come from Bihar it would seem reasonable to ask whether Government propose to recover this expenditure in part or as a whole from the Province to which they belong.

Sir, members will doubtless remember the order in which His Excellency the Viceroy placed the priorities under post-war development when he last addressed the annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce. He placed as No. 1 priority the building of Roads. It has been noted, Sir, that provision under the Development programme has been made on this account and 92 lakhs provided but we find that only 8 lakhs has been spent during the year. The excuse for this poor showing appears to be the delays which occur in land acquisition proceedings. It is essential that Government take steps to speed up the acquisition of the necessary land so that this work can be proceeded with expeditiously. The standard of living of the mofussil inhabitant can only be raised as a result of improved communications permitting him easier means of marketing his produce and his ability to purchase his requirements through a better distribution of available supplies.

Sir, we had anticipated that there must have been considerable unavoidable expenditure on Famine Relief during the current year but our expectations have been very considerably exceeded by the colossal expenditure shown under the head "Famine". During the current year this mounted to the staggering figure of 5 crores 83 lakhs which substantially exceeds the expenditure incurred on this account during 1943-44 when famine really existed in the Province. These figures are so spectacular that one must doubt whether any real control has been exercised in the disbursement of this money. We hope the Finance Minister will deal fully with this in his reply and satisfy the House that this money has not been frittered away uselessly and that to the best of his knowledge there have been no defalcations.

I would conclude, Sir, with a warning. We have always supported as strongly as we could this Province's claim for financial assistance from the Centre. That claim, Sir, is based upon the fact that this Province suffered from war conditions arising out of its position in the Eastern War Front in a manner which other provinces were fortunate enough to escape. We have claimed that Bengal should be placed in an equal position with those other provinces who during the war years had surplus budgets and were able to accumulate large sums in reserve funds. Much of the expenditure in these estimates still arises out of war conditions which affect this Province so adversely, and we agree that Government have no alternative but to press the Central Government for *ad hoc* subventions. The process cannot, however, go on indefinitely, and it is up to us to make every possible endeavour to make both ends meet. We see signs in these estimates that this effort is not being made. Expenditure under certain heads which I have mentioned is, in our opinion, excessive. We cannot expect the Government of India to continue making subventions to this province if our expenditure is open to criticism. I hope, Sir, that the Hon'ble Minister in reply will answer the criticisms and will assure the House that his Government will take every possible step during the coming year to cut down expenditure under the heads which appear to us to be open to criticism.

Mr. ASHUTOSH MALLICK : Mr. Chairman, Sir, আমলাতান্ত্রিক সরকারের আমলে স্বায়ত্ব-শাসনতন্ত্রে বাজেট পর্ব্ব একটি নৈমিত্তিক বিশেষ অনুষ্ঠান, এটা একটি নিছক অনুষ্ঠান বিশেষ নয়। বাজেট আলোচনা করাটা একটা গুণ বিশেষ, কিন্তু সমালোচনা না করাটাও একটা বিশেষ গুণ, তাই সরকার পক্ষীয় সমর্থক, মাতব্বর, মাতব্বারকল্পনিব্বিশেষে কেহই কোন সমালোচনা করেন না, প্রশংসাবাদই করে থাকেন, ও বিরুদ্ধ পক্ষীয় সদস্যদের দৈনন্দিন কর্ম্মজীবনে বাজেট তত্ত্ব সমালোচনা নিত্য কর্ম্মেরই সমপর্য্যায়ভুক্ত। আলোচনায় কোন ফল হয় না কিন্তু না করলে প্রত্যবায় দোষ ঘটে। সমালোচনায় সদ্য ফলপ্রসূ কোন টীকার না থাকলেও পুনরাবির্ভাবে অর্থাৎ বর্ত্তমান বাজেটের দেহান্তরে জনকল্যাণজনক নব কলেবর ঘটতে পারে মনে করে আমরা তার সমালোচনা করি। বাংলা সরকারের বর্ত্তমান বৎসরের বাজেটেও চিরাচরিত রীতিনীতি গতানুগতিক এবং একঘেয়ে হলে কি হয়, এবার তার মহাসমারোহে আবির্ভাবের পালাটা বিশেষ গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। সারা বাংলাদেশব্যাপী সর্ব্বত্র যেন সাড়া দিয়ে উঠল। সংবাদপত্র মহলেও সরগোল পড়ে গেল, না কি, ভারতীয় ইংরাজ পরিচালিত সংবাদপত্রের প্রচ্ছদপটে অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের সহকর্ম্মীদের মনে বিদ্বেষ বহ্নি জিয়ে প্রকাশ হোল তল্পী বগলে অর্থসচিবের প্রতিকৃতি--ভারতবর্ষে ইংরেজের কায়েমী স্বত্ব পুনর্দখলের কিম্বানী বিজয় নিশান কিম্বা স্বাধীন পাকিস্থানের ঘোষণা-পত্র বেশ বোঝা যায় না। পরিষদ কক্ষেও মন্ত্রি শয়ের বাজেট বক্তৃতার প্রারম্ভে বেশ একটা চাঞ্চল্য সৃষ্টি হয়েছিল। বাজেট প্রবন্ধের গোপন মর্য্যাদা সসম্ভ্রমে ক্ষুণ্ন রাখা হয়েছিল। পরিশেষে বাংলা সরকারের অর্থসচিব বহ্নারম্ভে হাজির করলেন বাংলা সরকারের তিপ্রমাণ ঘাটতি বাজেট--পর্ব্বত যেন মুষিক প্রসব করলো।

সাম্প্রদায়িক প্রাধান্য বিস্তারই বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর সবচেয়ে বড় কথা। জনসাধারণের যে প্রাণগত প্রয়োজন ছে, এ কথাটি আদৌ জরুরী নয়। তা ছাড়া মুসলীম লীগের জিনা রাজনীতিতে মানব জনসাধারণ এতই কিঞ্চিৎকর হয়ে পড়ে যে জনসাধারণের প্রয়োজনকে সম্মান করাই সম্ভবপর হয় না।

এবারকার বাজেটও এক কথায় অর্থনৈতিক বাজেট নয়। এটা রাজনৈতিক বাজেট। বিশেষ খুঁটিনাটি চার না করলেও বাজেটে দোষ ত্রুটির অভাব নেই, তৎসত্ত্বেও বাজেটের সমাদরের যদি কোন গুণ উদ্বৃত্ত থাকে

তবে তার উপরই অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের ভরসা--সেটা হচ্ছে সাম্প্রদায়িকতা-লালিত পরধর্ম্ম-অসহিষ্ণু ঈর্ষাপ্রসূত ভোট-ঐশ্বর্য্য। বাজেট প্রবন্ধের উপক্রমণিকা বৈষ্ণবের ঝুলিতে আর উপসংহার শক্তের করাল কবলে। তার প্রারম্ভে ইসলামের সার্বজনীন ভ্রাতৃপ্রেমের কোমল স্পর্শ এবং পরিসমাপ্তিতে কসাইর ছুরিকাঘাত। বাজেট রসায়নে অন্ত-রঙ্গেরই রসাস্বাদনের প্রাচুর্য্য। সাম্প্রদায়িক রসোন্মত্ততায় অর্থসচিব যেন একেবারে তন্ময়। দফায় দফায় সম্প্রদায় বিশেষের অনুকূলে ব্যয় বরাদ্দ ছত্রে ছত্রে তার মত্ততার স্বরূপ লক্ষণ প্রকাশ পেয়েছে। বাংলা দেশটি আর যেন বিভিন্ন ধর্ম্মীর লোকালয় নয়, আখের ক্ষেতে ধান গাছ যেন আগাছা। কিন্তু কফ্‌সিমার ভাগ্যটা কিছু সুপ্রসন্ন--তফসীল সম্পদায়ের কপালে বাজেটে শিক্ষা খাতে বৃদ্ধি হারে ৫ লাখের স্থলে একেবারে ১০ লাখ। আমি কোন ব্যয় বরাদ্দের বিপক্ষে কিছু বলছি না। দেশের শিক্ষা স্বাস্থ্য উন্নতির জন্য প্রয়োজনের তুলনায় বাজেটের নির্দ্দিষ্ট ব্যয় বরাদ্দ অতিশয় অকিঞ্চিৎকর। সরকার যে নীতি অবলম্বন করেছেন আমি তারই বিরোধিতা করি। ব্যয় সঙ্কুলনের অনুপাতে এই সব ব্যয় বরাদ্দ প্রচুর নহে। বেশ একটা সুস্পষ্ট প্রমাণ পাওয়া যায় এই সবের পিছনেও একটা রাজনৈতিক চাল আছে। সেটা অর্থনৈতিক সমস্যার সমাধান নয়। রাজনৈতিক চাল।

বাজেটের ঘাটতির মুখ্য ও গৌণ কারণ পর্য্যালোচনা করলে দেখা যাবে এর মূলীভূত কারণ দেশের রাষ্ট্রশক্তির অপব্যবহার। সে শক্তির সদ্ব্যবহার হলে বাজেটের অধিকাংশ ব্যয় বরাদ্দ নিষ্প্রয়োজন হতে পারতো, দৃষ্টান্ত স্থলে প্রায় আড়াই কোটি টাকা ব্যয় বরাদ্দ সাম্প্রদায়িক দাঙ্গাহাঙ্গামায় সর্বস্বান্ত লোকদের সাহায্যকল্পে। এর জন্য দায়ী নয় কি পাকিস্থানী অভিযান এবং তার সক্রিয় কর্ম্মপন্থা। উনুনের আগুন ফু দিয়ে জ্বালাতে হয় আবার গৃহ দাহের আগুন জল ঢেলে নিবোতে হয়। উনুন ধরাবার জন্যে আগুন জ্বালাতে যত চেষ্টা করতে হয় তার চেয়ে অনেক বেশী চেষ্টা করতে হয় "আগুন জ্বলে কেন" তার অনাবশ্যক উত্তর বের করতে। এদিকে হয়তো উনুনের আগুন নিবে গেছে, হাঁড়ি চড়েনি, পেটে ক্ষুধার আগুন জ্বলছে, তথাপি প্রশ্নই চলছে "আগুন জ্বলে কেন"? সাক্ষাৎ আগুনের মধ্যে তার উত্তর নেই, তার উত্তর আছে প্রত্যক্ষ আগুনকে বহুদূর ছড়িয়ে। আমরা পতঙ্গকে বলি মূঢ়, যেহেতু বার বার পতঙ্গ আগুনে ঝাঁপ দিয়ে পড়ে। জন্তু বিচারক মানুষকে নির্বোধ বলবে না? জন্তুর যা পাওনা তার বেশী তার দাবী নাই কিন্তু মানুষের চাই উপরি পাওনা। বাঁধা বরাদ্দের সীমা আছে, উপরি পাওনার সীমা নেই। মানুষের জীবিকা চলে বাঁধা বরাদ্দে, উপরি পাওনা দিয়ে প্রকাশ পায় তার মহিমা। বাংলা সরকারের বাজেট অনুসন্ধান করলে দেখা যাবে রাজকোষের সম্পদ কোন সম্প্রদায় বিশেষের এবং তাঁদের অনুগত আশ্রিত জন-গণের উপরি পাওনা হিসাবে ব্যবহৃত হয়েছে। কাজেই বাজেট ঘাটতি হবে এটা আর বেশী কথা কি? কলিকাতা সহরের দাঙ্গা-হাঙ্গামায় প্রথম ঢিল কে ছুঁড়েছিল এ প্রশ্ন অবান্তর হলেও একথা নিঃসন্দেহে বলা যায় মুসলিম লীগ রাষ্ট্রশক্তির অপব্যবহার করার সুযোগ না পেলে ঐ দুর্য্যোগ ঘটতো না। বাজেটের অপব্যয় ও অপচয়ের ফিরিস্তি-টাও কম নয়। দৃষ্টান্ত স্থলে নৌ গঠন পরিকল্পনা বিশেষ উল্লেখযোগ্য। আদার ব্যাপারীর জাহাজের খবর রেখে লাভ নাই, কিন্তু এ যে নৌকার কারবার, সেইজন্য আমাদের তার খবর রাখতে হয়। বাংলা সরকারের আনাড়ী নাবিক নৌকা জলে ভাসাবার আগেই নাকানি চুবানি খাচ্ছেন। কাজেই তিনি প্রচুর লোকসান ক্ষতি স্বীকার করেও নৌকার কারবারটা একেবারে গুটিয়ে দিতে প্রস্তুত। আমরা তাকে পুনঃ পুনঃ সাবধান করে দিতে চাই--পরিষদ পারাবারের কাণ্ডারী অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের বাজেট তরনীও যে সাম্প্রদায়ীক ধর্ম্মের ঘাটে বাঁধা আছে, সে ঘাট আছে কিন্তু জল গেছে সরে। সে ঘাটে নৌকা বেঁধে রাখতে বাধা নেই, কিন্তু সে নৌকায় খেয়া চলবে না, তদ্দারা বাংলা দেশের কি অন্ন-বস্ত্র সমস্যা, কি রাষ্ট্রনৈতিক, কি অর্থনৈতিক, কোন সমস্যারই সমাধান হবে না। সাম্প্রদায়িক ধর্ম্ম জিনিষটাই সাবেক কালের। যুগে যুগে জ্ঞানের পরিধির বিস্তার, তার অভিজ্ঞতার সংশোধন, তার অবস্থার পরি-বর্ত্তন চলেছে। মানুষের মন সেই সঙ্গে সঙ্গে যদি বিজড়িত ধর্ম্মকে সংশোধন না করে নেয় তাহলে ধর্ম্মের নামে হয় কপটতা নয় মূঢ়তা নয় আত্ম প্রবঞ্চনা জমে উঠতে থাকবেই। তাকে নির্ভর করে রাষ্ট্র শাসন একেবারেই বিড়ম্বনা। তা ছাড়া বিমান পোতের যুগে পোতই অচল, নৌকার কথা ত স্বতন্ত্র। আশ্চর্য্যের কথা পৃথিবীব্যাপী নৌকা ডুবির নজির দেখেও বাংলার মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর চৈতন্য হয় না। অন্যায় জিদের বশে যদি নৌকা সর্বস্ব ধরে বসে থাকেন তাহলে হাবুডুবু খাওয়ার বিশেষ দেরী হবে না, তাই বলি সময় থাকতে সাবধান হওয়া ভাল। বাংলা সরকার বাজেটের লোকসানী নৌকার কারবার গুটাবার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে দুটিকটু নৌকা বাঁধার ঘাটটাও ভেঙ্গে দিলে নিশ্চিন্ত হতে পারতেন।

তারপর বাজেটের পুনর্গঠন পরিকল্পনা একেবারে নৈরাশ্যজনক। সাম্প্রদায়িক ধর্ম্মের বেড়া ডিঙ্গিয়ে যত দিন না ভারতবর্ষ একাত্ম হবে ততদিন জাতিগঠনমূলক পরিকল্পনা কিংবা পুনর্গঠনমূলক পরিকল্পনা বর গ্রহণ করেও তার নিষ্কৃতি নেই, সে হেতু সহজ মানুষ আর সাম্প্রদায়িক মানুষ এক জাতের লোক নয়। যেমন সহজ শরীর এবং বর্ম্মপরা শরীরের ধর্ম্মই স্বতন্ত্র। একটিতে দেহে প্রাণের স্বভাব প্রকাশ পায় আর একটিতে দেহটি যন্ত্রের অনুকরণ

করে। মানুষের মধ্যে চিরকালের মানুষকে, সত্যিকারের মানুষকে দেখাটা দুর্লভ হয়। যার চোখ আছে সে দেখতে পায় এটা স্বীকার্য্য। কিন্তু দূরের জিনিষ দেখতে যার চোখের উপর দূরবীক্ষণ আছে বা কাছের জিনিষ দেখতে যার চোখে অনুবীক্ষণ আছে তাদের চেয়ে যে সে কম দেখে একথাটি তো ভুল নয়। অন্ধ যারা তারা ছাড়া পেলেও এগোয় না, এগোতে গেলেও মরে গর্ত্তে পড়ে। অন্ধ আচারের বোঝার চাপে পঙ্গু আমাদের দেশ, বিধি নিষেধের নিরর্থকতায় শতধা বিচ্ছিন্ন আমাদের সমাজ, বিপরীত ধর্ম্মী সম্প্রদায়কে নিয়ে আমাদের দেশ, এ যেন দুই যমজ ভাই পিঠে পিঠে জোড়া--এক জনের পা ফেলা আর এক জনের পা ফেলাকে সদাসর্ব্বদা প্রতিবাদ করে, দুইজনকে সম্পূর্ণ বিচ্ছিন্ন করাও যায় না, সম্পূর্ণ এক করাও দুঃসাধ্য। বর্ত্তমানে ধার্ম্মিকদের অধ্যবসায় কথা কাটাকাটি ছেড়ে দিয়ে পরস্পরের গলা কাটাকাটিতে গিয়ে পেঁছবে। সাম্প্রদায়িক ধর্ম্মবুদ্ধি মানুষের যত অনিষ্ট করেছে এমন বিষয়-বুদ্ধি করেনি। বিষয়াসক্তির মোহে মানুষ যত অন্যায়ী যত নিষ্ঠুর হয় ধর্ম্মমতের আসক্তি থেকে মানুষ তার চেয়ে অনেক বেশী ন্যায়ভ্রষ্ট, অন্ধ ও হিংস্র হয়ে উঠে। ইতিহাসে তার ধারাবাহিক প্রমান আছে।

Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in rising to speak a few words by way of general discussion on the Budget of the ensuing year, one only feels embarrassed and he staggers at different directions only to find the hopeless condition in which we are living at the present moment. One does not even know if in fact he is living in a society whose affairs are controlled or directed by any Government at all. When disorder, disloyalty, dishonesty, corruption, disrespect, indiscipline, inefficiency, insubordination and negligence of one's own normal duties leading practically to a disruption of the whole structure are current from top to bottom, one feels amazed at the idea that there can be any serious talk about any development and harmony. Due to the various factors and events as have been happening in this country for some time, we have now been brought to such a stage from where it is difficult to see any ray of hope in spite of all sorts of vain and vague promises. It must be so; for it has been truly observed by the great Indian political philosopher Chanakya that where there are child leaders or women leaders or too many leaders, the whole group must come to grief. In this unfortunate country of ours this is exactly the condition today. It is indeed a wonder that people who have not the least idea of respect for anybody or even for themselves are by accident in a position pretending to guide the whole show.

A Budget worth its name, is expected to give an account of the past and present activities showing the achievements made with the resources provided in order that unnecessary expenditure is avoided in future and that the experience gained by the happenings of the past and the present may be utilised for a proper and fair development of the future. And while doing the same and while making a provision for the supplies of the various departments of the Administration the Budget keeps in view the expected revenue in order that it may be able to cut its coat according to its cloth. When it aims at meeting the various demands of the country it should also see that useless or unjustified expenditure is not sought to be incurred. This can only be done when the people in charge of an administration are alive to their sense of responsibilittes so that the power vested in them can be utilised in such a manner that a situation is either not created, or at least avoided, for which public money may not have to be wasted. It is a pity that in this unfortunate province of ours, we find just the reverse state of affairs. Here the situation has either been directly and willingly created or at any rate has been indirectly and through connivance introduced, for which a large amount of public money has been wasted which, if avoided, could have been utilised for better and much more productive purposes.

We find, however, that money has been spent for unproductive projects and savings have been effected by not putting into operation useful schemes and some of these have now been abandoned.

While the Hon'ble Finance Minister has sought to congratulate himself by observing that in the current year, there has been very little death due to malaria and such other diseases, he conveniently forgets that there are

very few people left to die of such diseases when in fact due to the culpable negligence of the Ministry, they died in hundreds and thousands due to what happened from the month of August, 1946, onwards in many places of the province, specially in Calcutta, Noakhali, Tippera and Dacca. It is a pity that the Governor who is ultimately responsible under the Act and the Instrument of Instructions for the good government of the province and in whose name all orders are issued, has been misled and misguided by his advisers. A Commission of Enquiry to examine the last August happenings in Calcutta has since been set up. Although nothing can be said against the personnel, I, for one, have no faith in any post-mortem examination causing waste of time, energy and money unless it leads to the cessation of all such events in future. It was reported that some responsible honourable gentlemen including some of the Scheduled Castes visited the disturbed areas of East Bengal. It is a pity that while some of them described what they themselves saw indicating the losses suffered by the Scheduled Castes their own members in provincial and Interim Central Government securing their appointments through the generosity of the Muslim League, did not even venture to utter a single word about them. Nay, they even said just the contrary.

As the time is very short, it is no use going into details. But one cannot ignore the happenings of the Civil Supplies Department. At a time when people are beset with various difficulties no serious attempt has been made to see that they get even their barest minimum household requirements. We have had all sorts of stories told about what is happening in this department amongst the officers and also non-officials from the highest to the lowest and if even 1 per cent. of all that we hear is at all correct, it is extremely unfortunate.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has sermonised in the end that since they are on the project of rendering the best and highest services to the masses, they should get active co-operation and support from every shade of public opinion. We have yet to wait and perhaps to wait in vain for any such thing being actually put into operation. The future is unknown but we know what has happened in the past and we see what is happening in the present and if present and past is any indication of the future it may not be wrong if we feel that our future is equally hopeless.

At a time when the experience and judgment of the officers of His Majesty's Government should be utilised to the best advantage of the province, they are being demoralised to the extreme and politics of the worst type are being infused into their minds. The powers that be have been led to utilise them for their party and political propaganda. I have been told of cases, when officers refused to carry out such unwholesome wishes whispered into their ears, they were threatened with dismissal or transfer to penal stations. The promotions of deserving officers have also been held up for such considerations. Again, when they require more officers on a permanent basis, they have not been able to make the appointments although recommendations from the Public Service Commission have been pending for over a year for many such services. They did not even hesitate to alter the recommendations of the Divisional Heads in making appointments to the Registration Department only to accommodate the sons and relations of old and new party members.

If along with the various difficulties, experienced by the people, we consider the political situation of the country we shall find ourselves in a still more hopeless condition. I do not desire to dilate upon the various aspects of this subject. For the present, however, I should content myself by making a mention of the pitiable lot of the poor Scheduled Castes who have been suffering as a result of the various mischievous propensities of different political organisations in the country. After a long struggle they were sought to be given some status by the decision of a sympathetic Premier of the British Empire in September, 1932, while all of a sudden there sprang

up a few mushroom leaders from amongst the Scheduled Castes themselves to play to the tune of the Congress leaders who had an agreement entered into at Poona modifying the Award a few weeks after its announcement. There were at least some thoughtful members of the Scheduled Castes who did not hesitate to pronounce that this agreement at Poona would give a death blow to the political existence of the Scheduled Castes for all time to come. However, the Government of India Act was promulgated in 1935. The elections of the Scheduled Castes have been held on a joint electorate basis with other Hindus and we see the results of such joint elections. Most of the representatives that the Scheduled Castes have got in the various Legislatures all over India have not been chosen by them but by the Congress. The Cabinet Mission of the British Government which came to this country only a few months ago did not think it worthwhile to make any mention of the Scheduled Castes in their plans and one of them did not hesitate to make a statement in Parliament that they were assured by Congress that the interests of the Scheduled Castes would be well looked after by that body. What a wonderful conclusion! I do not understand the logic of all this. If any representation is at all to be given to any particular section of the community, they must be allowed the facility to choose their own representatives. If, on the other hand, someone else from outside has to choose representatives of the Scheduled Castes, I do not know how such representatives can at all be called the representatives of the Scheduled Castes. It is better not to give them any representation if this is the way of giving them a representation. I had occasion to meet a few stalwart leaders of the Bengal Congress who frankly admitted that this plan of the Cabinet Mission had been based on the suggestions of the Congress and the Muslim League. We know that the Muslim League was busy with their own affairs and they could not—and they did not—make mention of any other community of India. The last General Elections all over India have given the Scheduled Castes representatives of a very novel character. Some of them are reported to have said that it was due to unbounded charity of the Congress that they could get into the Provincial Legislatures and they were right. The fact remains, however, that such an attempt as has been practised will not lead us to any satisfactory solution of all our difficulties and it is apparent that the future of the Scheduled Castes is hopelessly gone. But we find that while the activities of the Congress have struck at the root of the political existence of the Scheduled Castes, the activities of the other organisation, namely, the Muslim League, have cut at their physical and moral existence absolutely——

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mullick, your time is up.

Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: May I have one minute more?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry I cannot allow any extra time because it will cut into the time of another honourable member. Will you kindly resume your seat?

Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Thank you, Sir.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not feel very much encouraged to take part in the budget discussion, not because we cannot help by making friendly criticisms and suggestions, but after ten years' experience in this House we feel that our criticisms and suggestions are neither accepted with good grace nor can they improve upon the unsatisfactory budgetary policy of this Government.

Sir, before I enter into the merits and demerits of the budget I want to draw pointed attention of this Government to the fact that there are still a very large number of political prisoners, convicted political prisoners, connected with the August 1942 movement rotting in jails, whereas in other provinces there are none so to speak.

My friend Mr. Mullick remarked that Government have become very notorious for inefficiency (A VOICE FROM OPPOSITION BENCHES: Only for that?), for corruption, for nepotism and jobbery. I do not think, Sir, that I can improve upon the remark that my friend made. Budget will do nothing. Allotments for nation-building works will do nothing, if really your Government are not honest, your Government are not efficient and if you cannot really eradicate the evils of corruption.

Sir, I was not present when my friend Sree Jadabendra Panja was speaking on the budget, but, Sir, I appreciated very much his remarks which appeared in newspapers that the Civil Supplies Department may be better described by calling it "a Criminal Non-supply Department". Today—this morning—I saw hundreds of persons including ladies and females waiting for mustard oil at the junction of Sadananda Road—

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: What is the difference between "ladies" and "females"? (Laughter.) I want to know that.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: What I mean, Sir, is that they were waiting there at the junction of Sadananda Road and Haldarpara Road from 3 in the early morning till 10, but all of them were not supplied with mustard oil. It has been very difficult for people to carry on if they have to spend so much time in procuring mustard oil. Our lives here have become very miserable under the League Government.

Now Sir, in the budget allotments I find that some special allotments have been made for Muslim education. We do not grudge it. I say that these grants are not very adequate, but what we say is that you should allot more for Muslims and Scheduled castes, but at the same time you allot something for (The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: For Caste Hindus?) Caste Hindus. The Finance Minister was telling us that the cause of the deficit budget was due to dislocation of business and industry and disruption of normal trade activitiss due to war causes and also due to the Niemeyer Award. My friend Mr. Ghose elaborately dealt with it and pointed out the inaccurate statements that the Finance Minister made regarding the Niemeyer Award. But as regards the causes of dislocated business and industry and disruption of normal trade I would submit and I would ask the Finance Minister to closely analyse the financial position of Bengal from the year 1943-44 up to this day. He will find there that the revenue receipts were increasing every year from 1943 up till 1945-46. The revenue receipts in 1943-44 were 23 crores and 71 lakhs of rupees; in 1944-45 it was Rs. 39 crores and 39 lakhs; in the year 1945-46 it was Rs. 45 crores and 50 lakhs. There was a sudden fall in the revenue during the year 1946-47. The estimated revenue was Rs. 42 crores and 50 lakhs but the revised revenue receipt was Rs. 38 crores and 73 lakhs. But then even though there was a fall in the revenue in 1945-46 it was almost one and half times the revenue that accrued during the year 1943-44. It was more than the revenue that accrued during the year 1945-46. So we cannot say that our revenue was much affected by such dislocation and disruption of trade, industry and business. Though the province might have suffered from some dislocation we have seen that members opposite and the Ministers and their families thrived by pursuing trade, business and industry. It has been said, Sir, that for want of funds, for want of resources, good schemes could not be worked up. I will point out, though it is not possible in the short time available to point out all the schemes but I will point out a few of them, and you will find that these budget allotments are also very misleading. From the budget allotments you may be elated at lump and good allotments, but you will find that they are seldom appropriated and that they are not spent. You will find at page 49 that for Emergency Irrigation Work and "Grow More Food" scheme, provision was made for 1 crore and 53 lakhs, but only Rs. 55 lakhs were spent. If you turn to page 50 of the Red Book you will find Rs. 2 crores and 20 lakhs was budgeted

for, for widening the bed of the Kalighai river, but only Rs. 1 crore and 21 lakhs was spent. In this way, Sir, if you turn to page 52 you will find re-excavation of derelict irrigation tanks——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMED: Sir, the Civil Budget Estimates of Bengal for 1947-48 have very ably been introduced by the youngest Finance Minister of India. Of course, everybody sitting opposite knows that we shall have to vote for the demands that have been put forward before us. But that does not mean that we are debarred from making our comments or giving our constructive suggestions regarding the budget at least for future years. But before doing that I must say that we, as new members of this House, were expected to be enlightened and to receive guidance from the experienced members sitting on the opposite. Yesterday I came with great expectation that leaders of the Opposition certainly would make comments on the budget which will be certainly instructive to the members of the House. I tried to hear them with rapt attention and I must say that my yound friend sitting opposite, Mr. Bimal Comar Ghose, tried his best to present a faithful picture of his study of the budget, and for that I congratulate him. But the only remark that I should make about that speech is that the speech he made here on the floor of the House was not very much suited for the occasion. Probably he forgot that he was speaking on the floor of the Bengal Assembly. It appeared from the whole of his learned speech that he made before the House as if it was a briefed speech for the Government of India, but we are not here to defend the Government of India. We are here to improve upon the budgetary policy of the Government of Bengal. Of course the spirit in which he has approached the subject is laudable and I believe he has a bright future before him.

But, Sir, I must say that my disappointment was very very great with respect to the speech that I heard from the great leader of the Hindu Mahasabha, Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee. He is well known as a great leader of the Hindu Mahasabha, and it is also well known that he controls the destinies of the premier University of India, i.e., the Calcutta University. And as an ex-Finance Minister of Bengal he has also had great experience of the budgetary position of this Government, and, as such, we expected a better and more able guidance from him. Of course, by making this remark I do not mean to say that he did not say anything good. I must admit that he raised many points which were very good. Unfortunately, however, we could not appreciate them on account of his eagerness for abusing the members on this side of the House. By doing so, Sir, he has spoiled his great speech. I do not know what points he wanted to develop in his speech. Perhaps he came here not to make a budget speech but to compete with his friends in the Congress just to see whether he could abuse the Muslim Leaguers more than the Congress members could do. As a new member I felt that he was vying with his friends in the Congress to abuse us. So from that point of view I should congratulate him that he has made a very good speech for the purpose of propaganda on behalf of the Hindu Mahasabha. Whatever that be, Sir, I leave it there.

Sir, I find that the blue light is now on and I must say a few words by way of comments on the budget. I shall touch upon one item regarding the police budget. The Finance Minister had to admit in his budget speech that in the current year's budget the police expenditure had to be augmented considerably as he had to spend eight lakhs more, and in the next year's budget there is an additional provision of seventy-five lakhs for the police. Sir, it is fresh in the memory of everybody that the Calcutta police was conspicuous during the great Calcutta riot by their absolute inaction. About that, Sir, everybody knows. It was expected that in times of troubles and dangers when life and property of the people are in danger the

police who are real custodians of life and property ought to have been more active than in times of peace——. (At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, অর্থসচিব মহাশয় এসেমব্লীর সামনে যে বাজেট পেশ করেছেন বাংলার জনসাধারণের স্বার্থের দিক দিয়ে তাদের কল্যাণের দিক দিয়ে সর্বতোভাবে এই বাজেট ব্যর্থ এবং শোচনীয়। বাজেট মধ্যে হিসাবের অন্ত নাই--বাজেটের কলেবর বিশাল, কিন্তু বাজেটের হিসাব পর্য্যালোচনা করলে আমরা দেখতে পাই যে এই বাজেট দেউলে বাজেট। বাংলার জন সাধারণের সুখ নাই। বাংলার জনসাধারণ সরকারকে যে টাকা জোগায় সেই টাকা কিভাবে খরচ হয়--বাংলার জনসাধারণ তার কিছুই জানে না। বাংলার জনসাধারণের কাছ থেকে তাদের বুকের রক্ত জল করে উপার্জন করা টাকা কি উপায়ে সরকার আদায় করে--নানাভাবে নানা ছুঁতোতে নানা অজুহাতে বাংলার জনসাধারণ তা জানে। বাংলার লোক বর্ত্তমান এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর শাসনে অন্ন থেকে বঞ্চিত, "রেশন সপের" সামনে ঘণ্টার পর ঘণ্টা ভিক্ষুকের মত জোড়হাতে দাঁড়িয়ে না থাকলে খোরাক জোটে না, পরণের অভাবে বাংলার জনসাধারণকে প্রায় অর্দ্ধেক উলঙ্গ অবস্থাতে দিন যাপন করতে হচ্ছে। যদিও Ration Shopএর সামনে ঘণ্টার পর ঘণ্টা দাঁড়িয়ে থেকে চাল সংগ্রহ করা যায়--তারপর সেই চাল রান্না করবার কয়লার কোন ব্যবস্থা নাই। বাংলার এক প্রান্ত থেকে অপর প্রান্ত পর্য্যন্ত সরিষার তেলের মর্ম্মান্তিক অভাব। অধিকাংশ জেলাতেই চার টাকার কমে এক সের সরিষার তেল পাওয়া যায় না। এই অবস্থাতে বাংলার জনসাধারণ যখন সরকারকে রাজস্ব জোগায়--তখন নিশ্চয়ই বাংলার জনসাধারণ প্রত্যাশা করে সেই রাজস্ব সদ্ভাবে ব্যয়িত হবে। দুঃখের বিষয় বাংলার রাজস্ব নিয়ে বাংলার অর্থসচিব কি পরিমাণে ছেলেখেলা করছেন কি রকম ছিনিমিনি খেলছেন তার পরিচয় বাংলার লোক জানে না। রাজস্ব আদায় হয়েছে চলতি সালে ৩১ কোটি ৭৭ লক্ষ টাকা; কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় এই রাজস্বে অর্থসচিব বাংলার খরচা শেষ করতে পারেন নাই--তিনি খরচা চালানোর জন্য চলতি সালে খরচ করেছেন ৪৫ কোটি ৫ লক্ষ টাকা। অর্থাৎ এই চলতি সালে বাংলার জনসাধারণের মাথার উপর তিনি ১৩ কোটি টাকার দেনা চাপিয়ে দিয়েছেন। দেনা চাপানোর জন্য দুঃখ নাই--যদি সেই দেনার পরিবর্ত্তে জনকল্যাণ এবং জাতিগঠনমূলক কাজ হয়। কিন্তু বাংলার এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর চরম কলঙ্কের বিষয় যে তারা জনকল্যাণের জন্য যে পরিমাণ টাকা বাজেটে Assemblyর কাছ থেকে পাশ করিয়ে নেন--সে পরিমাণ টাকা খরচ করবার যোগ্যতা এবং শুভবুদ্ধি তাঁদের নাই। যখন বাজেট পাশ হয় তখন লোকে ভাবে বাজেটে যে টাকা বরাদ্দ হয়েছে বোধ হয় বাংলার জনসাধারণের জন্য সেই টাকা খরচ করা হবে। কিন্তু চলতি বছরের হিসাবের মধ্যে দেখা যাবে যে টাকা খরচের জন্য পাশ করা হয়েছে সেই টাকাও গভর্ণমেণ্ট খরচ না করে অন্য খাতে অন্যান্য বাবদে খরচ করেছেন। বাংলার চলতি বছরের খরচের হিসাব যদি আমরা পর্য্যালোচনা করি তবে আমরা দেখতে পাব--Agricultural irrigation প্রভৃতি খাতে গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে টাকা বরাদ্দ করেছিলেন, তার চেয়ে দু কোটি টাকা কম খরচ করেছেন। জনসাধারণ সরকারের মুখের দিকে তাকিয়ে থাকে কেমন করে তাদের অবস্থার উন্নতি হবে। সরকারও ধোকাবাজী দেয়--"হ্যাঁ, তোমাদের উপকারের জন্য, আর্থিক উন্নতির জন্য এই টাকা বরাদ্দ করছি।" কিন্তু বাজেট পাশ করবার পরে সরকার সে কথা ভুলে যায়, আর বাজেটের বরাদ্দ টাকা খরচ হয় পুলিশের জন্য কিংবা অন্য শাসন বিভাগের জন্য। বাজেটে যে দুকোটি টাকা খরচ কম করা হয়েছে চলতি বছরে সেই দুকোটি টাকার মধ্যে পুলিশের খাতে খরচ করা হয়েছে অতিরিক্ত ৩৭ লক্ষ টাকা এবং General Administrationএ খরচ করা হয়েছে অতিরিক্ত আরও ২৩ লক্ষ টাকা। জনকল্যাণ এবং জাতিগঠনমূলক কাজের জন্য টাকা খরচ না করে শাসন বিভাগের জন্য এবং পুলিশ বিভাগের জন্য যা মঞ্জুরী টাকা আছে তার অতিরিক্ত খরচ করায় বাংলার বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর বিশেষত্ব। আমি এই বাংলার মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর বাজেট যে সর্বতোভাবে বাংলা দেশের পক্ষে সর্বনাশকর—এই কথা মনে করি। মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী এই বাজেটের ঘাটতি পূরণ করবার জন্য কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিকট ভিক্ষার ঝুলি হস্তে দণ্ডায়মান। কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের কাছ থেকে এই মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী Development Scheme বাবদ ১৯৪৪-৪৫ সালে পেয়েছে ৭ কোটি টাকা, ১৯৪৫-৪৬ সালে পেয়েছে ৮ কোটি টাকা এবং ১৯৪৬-৪৭ সালে চেয়েছিলেন ১০॥ কোটি। কিন্তু ৯ কোটি টাকা তাঁরা সেখানে খরচ করতে পারেন নি। কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট বাংলা দেশের জনসাধারণকে সাহায্য করবার জন্য ১০॥ কোটি টাকা দেবার জন্য প্রস্তুত। কিন্তু এই অক্ষম অযোগ্য মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের প্রদত্ত টাকা খরচ করবার মত যোগ্যতা রাখেনা। বিভিন্ন খাতে কিভাবে এই টাকা খরচ হয়েছে এবং ব্যয় সঙ্কোচ করা হয়েছে তার কিছু নমুনা দেই।

বাংলায় চাষের জন্য irrigation tankএর প্রয়োজন অত্যন্ত বেশী। এই বাবদ ৩০ লক্ষ টাকা খরচের ব্যবস্থা ছিল--মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী ১৯ লক্ষ টাকার বেশী খরচ করতে পারেননি। শোচনীয় অযোগ্যতার এই

একটি প্রমাণ। Education খাতে যে টাকা খরচ করার কথা ছিল তারচেয়ে ১৭ লক্ষ ৫৫ হাজার টাকা তাঁরা খরচ করতে পারেননি--খরচ বাঁচিয়েছেন; Medical খাতে হাসপাতালের জন্য ২৫ লক্ষ টাকার জায়গায় ২০ লক্ষ টাকার বেশী খরচ করতে পারেন নি। আমি জানি বীরভূম জেলায় প্রতি এক লক্ষ লোকের মধ্যে ১০৮ জন লোক এক মাসের মধ্যে মারা গেছে '৪৬ সালে, আমি সরকারী হিসাব থেকে এই কথা বলছি। Anti-malaria Societyর জন্য ৫ লক্ষ ৮০ হাজার টাকা বরাদ্দ ছিল, তারমধ্যে ৩ লক্ষ ৮০ হাজারের বেশী খরচ করতে পারেন নাই। Agriculture খাতে ৩ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ হয়েছিল সেখানে ২ লক্ষ ২১ হাজার টাকার বেশী এই গভর্ণমেণ্ট খরচ করতে পারেন নাই। Industry খাতে ৪ লক্ষ টাকা····

[At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.]

Mr. AHMED KABIR CHOWDHURY: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the Budget Estimate for 1947-48. In going to do so, I must find out the reason why my friends on the opposite are so vehement in their eloquence in criticising the budget which is so justly and equitably prepared under so many adverse circumstances. These honourable gentlemen want change of Government and not the independence of the province as they declare.

Now, Sir, let me turn to the budget provision item by item. Under the development scheme which involves 16 crores no provision has been made for Chittagong division as a whole. This is very regrettable. I think this is due to lack of foresight and efficiency of our young Finance Minister. Real Bengal lives in villages. The improvement of Bengal means the improvement of rural villages. I invite the Hon'ble Finance Minister to go to these areas to see personally how these people are labouring under so many adversities due to war, flood and so many other natural or man-made calamities. If these people are given a chance I can give him this assurance that these people now deserted and neglected will play a very important part in moulding the destiny of Pakistan Government in future. The great river Karnafully has been silted up as the flow of rain water has been obstructed by so many training bunds erected on the mouth of the river--say about 20 miles—for the improvement of the Port. The Karnafuly railway bridge too obstructs the easy flow. These two factors are the main causes of devastating flood in Chittagong. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister with other technical advisers including Chief Engineer, Irrigation, personally saw the river and I thought some provision will be made to train the whole river up to Rangamati so that recurring flood may not occur devastating half of Chittagong. There will be flood every year and several times in one season as nobody can stop rain.

I am really surprised that in spite of repeated representations no provision has been made in the budget for excavating the Garal Khal which has been completely blocked owing to change of course of Sangu river in the last flood which has rendered 21 sq. miles of paddy field completely unfit for cultivation at a loss of 2 lakhs of maunds of paddy in these days of food shortage.

Sir, due to separation of Burma and due to War about 60 thousand Chittagong people have been thrown out of employment. Again one lakh of people is going to be thrown out of employment from Chittagong Hill Tracts owing to the arbitrary administration of the Deputy Commissioner of the district under instruction of His Excellency the Governor of Bengal. He has introduced so many rules which have denied all rights of citizenship to all Bengali people going there. He is freely interfering with the Muslim religion by interfering in their law of inheritance. All constitutional means of redressing those wrongs have failed. These are the true pictures of Chittagong. Roads are all damaged due to heavy military traffic and last flood but none to see to their repairs. Relief sent but the distribution is as bad as anything. Cow epidemic is here and there but District Authorities are very very callous about supervision as they do not get pressure from the respective Ministers who never care for this detached part of the province. You know, Sir, Cox's Bazar is the only natural sanitorium in Bengal but as

the place happens to be in Chittagong the Hon'ble Finance Minister could not think of establishing a sanitorium there. There is one medical school in the whole Division——

(The member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Dr. PRATAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, বাংলার এই বাজেট সমালোচনা করবার জন্য general discussionএর অবতারণা সন্দেহ নাই। কিন্তু এই বাজেট সমালোচনা করতে গেলে এর প্রত্যেকটা item তীব্রভাবে সমালোচনা করবার প্রয়োজন।

১৯৩৭-৩৮ সালে বাজেট হয়েছিল ১৩ কোটি টাকার--আর এবারকার বাজেট হচ্ছে ৪১ কোটি টাকা থেকে ৪৫ কোটি টাকার। এই যে এত বড় একটা ব্যবধান ১৩ কোটি আর ৪৫ কোটি টাকা--এই ব্যবধানের দরুণ বাংলার জনসাধারণের কি কি উপকার হয়েছে--তা আজ বিচার করবার সময় এসেছে। আজকে ১৩ কোটি টাকার বাজেটের পরে ৪৫ কোটি টাকার বাজেটে জনসাধারণের দুরবস্থা দূর ও তাদের বিন্দুমাত্র উন্নতি হয়েছে বলে কেউ বলতে পারে এমন লোকের সন্ধান পাওয়া অসম্ভব। জনসাধারণের অবস্থার উন্নতি হওয়া দূরে থাকুক তাদের খাওয়া-পরা, শিক্ষা-স্বাস্থ্য সমস্ত দিকই দ্রুতগতিতে অবনতির দিকে এগিয়ে যাচ্ছে। অথচ বাজেটের টাকার অঙ্ক ক্রমান্বয়ে বেড়ে যাচ্ছে। সেই সমস্ত টাকা যায় কোথায়? প্রশ্ন সেইখানে, বাজেট criticismএর সেইখানেই main point। ১৩ কোটি থেকে যে ব্যয়ের হিসেব ৪৫ কোটি টাকায় পৌঁছেছে; সেই টাকা দিয়ে তারা জনসাধারণের কি কি উপকার সাধন করেছেন, তার কৈফিয়ৎ দিতে তারা বাধ্য। কিন্তু দেশের দুর্দ্দশার দিকে দৃষ্টি নিবদ্ধ করলে সহজেই অনুমিত হবে যে তাতে জনসাধারণের কোন উপকারই হয়নি; বরং জনসাধারণের অবস্থা প্রতিদিন দ্রুতগতিতে অবনতির নিম্নস্তরে গিয়ে উপস্থিত হয়েছে। Meston Award চলে গেছে, Neimeyer Awardএর বহু গালাগালি আমাদের Finance Ministerএর মুখ থেকে শুনেছি। কিন্তু এই ১৩ কোটি টাকা থেকে ৪৫ কোটিতে পৌঁছতে এদেশে ৩০ লক্ষ লোক না খেয়ে মরেছে। আজও দেশে অন্ন নেই, বস্ত্র নেই, বলতে গেলে জীবন ধারণের উপযোগী কিছুই নেই। কোনদিক দিয়ে জনসাধারণের বেঁচে থাকবার ব্যবস্থা যে বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী করতে পেরেছেন এমন কথা বলবার অধিকার তাদের নেই।

গত জুলাই মাসে যে বাজেট আমাদের youngest Finance Minister তরুণ মন্ত্রী, তাঁর তারুণ্যের উৎসাহ নিয়ে আমাদের সামনে এনেছিলেন, তাতে মনে হয়েছিল যে আলাউদ্দীনের প্রদীপের মত ছুঁইয়ে দিয়ে তিনি বাংলা দেশকে সোনার দেশে পরিণত করে দেবেন। কিন্তু ১৯৪৭ সালে তাঁর বাজেট পেশ করবার সময় অভিজ্ঞতালব্ধ বুদ্ধি তাঁকে একটু সতর্ক ও সংযত করেছে। কারণ আজকে যেভাবে দেশ শাসিত হচ্ছে, তার বীভৎস চেহারা দেখে সমস্ত জাতি ও মানুষ আতঙ্কে শিউরে উঠ্‌ছে। সমগ্র দেশব্যাপী যে খুনোখুনি চলছে গভর্ণমেণ্ট তা রোধ করতে পারেননি, এজন্য তাঁদের কৈফিয়ৎ দিতে হবে। আমি কেবল হিন্দু সমাজের দিক থেকে একথা বলছি না; আমি হিন্দু-মুসলমান জনসাধারণের পক্ষ থেকে একথা বলতে চাই যে, এই যে চারিদিকে আত্মহত্যা ও খুনোখুনি চলছে, এর প্রতিকারে অসমর্থ পুলিশের বাজেটে টাকা বেড়েই চলেছে। অকর্ম্মণ্য নিষ্ক্রিয় অপদার্থ ও পঙ্গুর দল যে সমস্ত পুলিশ কলিকাতার হাঙ্গামার সময় নীরব দর্শকের মত দাঁড়িয়েছিল, তাদের দূর করে তাড়িয়ে না দিয়ে অথবা কঠোর শাস্তির ব্যবস্থা না করে উপরন্তু তাদের টাকা বাড়িয়ে দিতে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী লজ্জিত ও সঙ্কুচিত হচ্ছেন না। যে সব irresponsible police ও surgeant নিরীহ studentদের অন্যায়ভাবে গুলী করেছে, তাদের হাতের revolver কেড়ে না নিয়ে আবার তাদের জন্য আরও জীপ গাড়ি ও নানা নতুন অস্ত্রে সুসজ্জিত করবার ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে। Police Departmentএর উপকারিতা কি, দেশ আজ সেটা জানতে চায়। দেশের স্বাস্থ্য ও শিক্ষা, কৃষি ও শিল্পের সকল ব্যবস্থা কমিয়ে দিয়ে কেবল পুলিশের ব্যবস্থাই বাড়ছে নিষ্ক্রিয় ও অপদার্থ এই পুলিশের এই বিরাট ব্যবস্থার জন্য মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীকে জনসাধারণের নিকট কৈফিয়ৎ দিতে হবে। এই পুলিশের দ্বারা আমাদের কি উপকার হচ্ছে, তা আমরা জানতে চাই। Finance Minister কলিকাতা পুলিশের এবং বাংলার পুলিশের ভুলত্রুটি ও অকর্ম্মণ্যতা কি অনুসন্ধান করে দেখবেন? তাদের মধ্যে যে communalismএর বিষ ঢুকেছে, সেটা কি তিনি লক্ষ্য করেছেন? এর ফলে ভবিষ্যতে যে বীভৎস চেহারা দাঁড়াবে, তা ভাবলে আতঙ্কে শিউরে উঠতে হবে। আমার মনে হয় জনসাধারণের পক্ষ থেকে অকর্ম্মণ্য পুলিশের বাজেটের অতিরিক্ত বরাদ্দ ব্যবস্থা ছিড়ে ফেলা উচিৎ।

তারপর Civil Supply Departmentএ কোটি কোটি টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে। এই কোটি কোটি টাকা কাদের হাতে যায়, কারা পোষিত হচ্ছে ও কারা এই প্রকাণ্ড লুণ্ঠনের ভাগিদার তা জানবার অধিকার দেশবাসীর নিশ্চয়ই আছে। সাপ্লাইয়ের কল্যাণে ১১৲ টাকার চাল ১৬।০ টাকায় ১৬।।০ টাকায় কিনে খেয়ে যখন দেখি সেই চালের ব্যবসায় ৩ কোটি টাকা লোকসান, তখন গভর্ণমেণ্টের চমৎকার ব্যবসায় বুদ্ধির জন্য তারিফ করা ছাড়া আর গত্যন্তর কি? এদের হাতে এই বিরাট দেশের শাসনভার অর্পিত আছে। নৌকা নির্ম্মাণ করতে হবে সেখানে ২ কোটি টাকা লোকসান দিতে হবে, কেমন সুন্দর arrangements। তাঁরা যেটা ধরেছেন, সেটাই ভুল করেছেন। আজকে দেশে যখন irrigationএর প্রয়োজন সবচেয়ে বেশী তখন irrigation টাকা বন্ধ হয়ে গেছে, এখন research হবে। তারপরে কোন্ অনাগত দূর ভবিষ্যতে জল সরবরাহের ব্যবস্থা হবে কে জানে। বাজেটে যে সমস্ত scheme দেখা যাচ্ছে, তার ফল পাবার আগেই হয়ত দেশের লোক মরে ভূত হয়ে যাবে। দেশের জনসাধারণ আজ ম্যালেরিয়ায় মারা যাচ্ছে; জলাভাবে, অন্নাভাবে, বস্ত্রাভাবে, তৈলাভাবে মরছে; তার প্রতিকারের কোনও আশু ব্যবস্থা না থাকলেও মন্ত্রীরা বড় বড় development scheme করছেন। বড় বড় ইমারৎ তৈরী করছেন। অফিসারদের ট্রেণিং দিয়ে বিদেশ থেকে নিয়ে আসছেন। এই বাজেটে কোন সুচিন্তিত কর্ম্মপন্থা নেই। বড় লোকের ওয়াশিংএর হঠাৎ পাওয়া টাকা squander করার মত এই বাজেট একটা document of squandering money right and left। বহু টাকার মালিক আমাদের এই young Finance Ministerএর মাথা ঠিক রাখবার মত অবস্থা নেই। তাই তিনি যেখানে সেখানে টাকা লুটোচ্ছেন। তাঁর নিজের কোন কর্ম্মপন্থা নেই; পরের শেখান বুলিই শুধু তিনি কপ্‌চাচ্ছেন। তাঁর সততা থাকতে পারে, কিন্তু নিজস্ব চিন্তাধারা বা মনের দৃঢ়তার বালাই নেই। তিনি যে "মোগলাই বাজেট" আমদানী করেছেন, তার মধ্যে দিয়ে communalismএর কদর্য্যতা তিনি ঢেকে রাখতে পারেন নি। এর ফল তাঁকে নিশ্চয়ই ভোগ করতে হবে। হিন্দু-মুসলমান জনসাধারণ সকলে যেখানে মিলিতভাবে বহু জল করে অর্থ দিচ্ছে, সেখানে ভাগীদারী বাঁটোয়ারার ব্যবস্থা চলতে দেওয়া অন্যায় ও অশোভন। জনসাধারণের সকলের দিকে এর বিলি ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে। তিনি যে বাঁটোয়ারার ফর্দ্দ এই মোগলাই বাজেটে আমদানী করেছেন, মোগল রাজত্বের সময়েও এতবড় একটা communal ব্যাপার করতে বোধ হয় তাঁরা লজ্জিত হতেন। আজকে ইসলামিয়া হাসপাতাল, মুসলমান ছাত্রদের জন্য separate arrangement ইত্যাদি অনেক communal অব্যবস্থার পথে majority communityর জন্য safeguardএর আয়োজনের দুর্ব্বলতা, অক্ষমতা ও অপদার্থতার জন্য মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর অনুতপ্ত ও লজ্জিত হওয়া উচিত।

Mr. MAHAMMAD SAYEED MIA : মাননীয় ডিপুটি স্পীকার, স্যার, বাংলা সরকারের অর্থসচিব মহাশয় যথেষ্ট শ্রম স্বীকার করিয়া আগামী বৎসরের যে বাজেট পেশ করিয়াছেন তাহার জন্য তাঁকে ধন্যবাদ দিতেছি। বাংলার চরম আর্থিক দুরবস্থার মধ্যে উহা অপেক্ষা উৎকৃষ্ট বাজেট তৈরী করা সম্ভব ছিল বলিয়া মনে হয় না। তিনি বাজেটে ১২ কোটি টাকা ঘাটতি দেখাইয়াছেন। ঘাট্‌তির কারণ বিশ্লেষণ করিতে গিয়া বলিয়াছেন, গত ভীষণ দাঙ্গাহাঙ্গামার জন্য দারুণ অস্বাভাবিক অবস্থা ও কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের সহিত আর্থিক বণ্টন-ব্যবস্থা তারপর স্বায়ত্ত শাসন আমলের পূর্ব্বেই মেষ্টন রোয়েদাদ ও ১৯৩৭-৩৮ সালের নিমেয়ার রোয়েদাদ বাংলা সরকারের বাজেটে বৎসরের পর বৎসর ঘাট্‌তি ঘটাইয়া আসিয়াছে। বাংলার একচেটিয়া ফসল পাটের শুল্ক হইতেও বাংলা দেশকে অনেক পরিমাণে বঞ্চিত রাখা হইয়াছে। এই সমস্ত বোয়েদাদ ও অবস্থার অবসান না ঘটাইলে বাজেটে ঘাট্‌তি বন্ধ হইবে না। আমার মনে হয় বাংলা সরকারের বাজেটে স্থায়ী ঘাট্‌তি হওয়ায় প্রধান ও মূল কারণ হচ্ছে চির-অভিশপ্ত চিরস্থায়ী জমিদারী প্রথা। এই কু-প্রথার ধারা গত ১৫০ বৎসর ধরিয়া বাংলার প্রজা, চাষী ও জনসাধারণের প্রদত্ত কোটি কোটি টাকা খাজনা জনসাধারণের হিত ও কল্যাণের জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের তহবিলে না গিয়া কতকগুলি বিলাসপরায়ণ ও প্রজার রক্ত-শোষক জমিদারের পকেটে গিয়াছে। জমিদারগণ প্রজার এই অর্থের অতি সামান্যই গভর্ণমেণ্টকে রাজস্ব দিয়াছেন। যখন চাষী প্রজারা দুর্ভিক্ষ ও মহামারীতে ধ্বংসের হাত হইতে রক্ষা পাইবার জন্য ও শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য ও কৃষির উন্নতির জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের দরবারে হাত পাতিয়াছে তখনই গভর্ণমেণ্ট পরিষ্কার উত্তর দিয়াছে তহবিলে টাকা নাই। আজ এই সমস্ত অবন্য প্রথা ও প্রজার রক্ত শোষণের অবসান ঘটাইবার দিন আসিয়াছে প্রজার সর্ব্বনাশকারী এই জমিদারদিগকে জমিদারী প্রথা উচ্ছেদের জন্য কোন ক্ষতিপূরণ দেওয়ার প্রশ্নই উঠিতে পারে না। বাংলার প্রকৃত মেরুদণ্ড ও শক্তি হচ্ছে বাংলার শতকরা ৯০ জন চাষী প্রজা, তন্মধ্যে অধিকাংশই মুসলমান ও তপশীল শ্রেণী ভুক্ত। ইহাদিগকে গত দেড় শতাধিক বৎসর ধরিয়া শিক্ষা, সভ্যতা ও মানবতার সকল অধিকার হইতে পূর্ণ মাত্রায় বঞ্চিত রাখা হইয়াছে। এই দারিদ্র্য-পীড়িত ও চির-উপেক্ষিত প্রজাবৃন্দের জন্য কয়েক লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ করায় বিরুদ্ধ পক্ষীয় সভ্যগণ বর্ত্তমান লীগ গভর্ণমেণ্টকে সাম্প্রদায়িক বলিয়া অকথ্য ভাষায় গালাগালি করিতেছেন। গত ১৫০ বৎসর ধরিয়া বর্ণহিন্দুরা এই প্রজার উপার্জ্জিত ধনে ও অর্থে লালিত

পালিত হইয়া ইংরাজ গভর্ণমেণ্টের শাসন ও শোষন যন্ত্রের চালক সাজিয়া বাংলার ভাগ্য নির্ণয় করিয়াছেন, এই গভর্ণমেণ্টের সকল বিভাগে রাজত্ব করিয়া আসিয়াছেন। আজ তাঁহারাই মুসলমান প্রজাবৃন্দের সামান্য শিক্ষার ব্যয় বরাদ্দের নামে আঁতকাইয়া উঠিতেছেন এবং এখনও এই চাষী সমাজকে শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য ও কৃষির উন্নতি বিষয়ক ন্যূনতম অধিকার হইতে বঞ্চিত রাখার ষড়যন্ত্র করিতেছেন। বন্ধুরা যেন মনে রাখেন যুগের ধর্ম্ম এই--

পীড়ন করিলে সে পীড়ন এসে পীড়ন দিবে তোমাকেই। আমি অর্থসচিব মহোদয়কে সনির্ব্বন্ধ অনুরোধ জানাইতেছি যে এখন হইতে তিনি এই পল্লীবাসীদের কল্যাণ ও উদ্ধারের জন্য প্রচুর টাকার ব্যবস্থা করিয়া ও তাহাদের শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য ও কৃষির উন্নতির জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের সকল শক্তি প্রয়োগ করিয়া সমগ্র দেশবাসীর আশীর্ব্বাদ লাভ করুন।

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had no intention to take part in the general discussion of the Budget at this fag end of the day or to deliver a lecture to empty benches, but I thought that it would be better to deliver a lecture to empty benches than to the deaf ears that are always turned to us by the Ministry that is now in office.

Well, Sir, in his brilliant speech the honourable member representing the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce exposed the hollowness of the budget that has been presented to the House and described it as a communal and bankrupt budget. I shall not travel over that ground again.

Sir, what staggered me when I was listening to the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister, was the concluding portion of his speech. There he has said: "An examination of the Budget which I have just placed before the House will, I am sure, clearly show how earnestly we are endeavouring to utilise this opportunity to the best advantage of the Province." When I heard him, I could not really trust myself. If, Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has used those words in the sense which is called in Sanskrit a particular type of ব্যঞ্জনা which implies that the positive means the negative then I must congratulate him: But if he has meant these words seriously, I must say that hypocrisy cannot go further. If you compare the statement of the Hon'ble Minister with the one he made last year while presenting the last year's Budget—if you compare the statements of these two years—you will find that the promises that he held out last year, all those promises have been broken. These promises have been kept more in breach than in fulfilment. What he has done this year is that he has further pushed Bengal to economic and financial ruin, and now he has found in the Niemeyer Award a scapegoat and a plea under the cover of which he wants to squander away the finances of Bengal. What are the promises he held out last year and how many of them he has fulfilled?

Sir, the time at my disposal is short, and so I cannot here adequately depict the picture of corrupton, bungling, miscalculation and what not.

Sir, under the head "Irrigation" he promised 30 lakhs for improvement of derelict irrigation tanks, but he could spend only 19 lakhs this year. He provided 70 lakhs for the execution of the Mor Irrigation Project but only 58 lakhs could be spent this year.

On Agriculture the total Development expenditure was budgeted for 41 lakhs but actually it was only 27 lakhs that he could spend.

Sir, I find from the Budget of this year that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has been successful only in one scheme—in connection with agricultural improvement, and that is connected with the scheme of multiplication of goats. I sincerely congratulate the Finance Minister on the success he has achieved in multiplying goats all over the province.

Sir, I come now to Industries. This year Government sanctioned for the development of Cinchona Rs. 3,39,000 and the Revised Estimates show that only Rs. 33,000 has been spent. That is the way in which you are going to combat malaria.

As regards development of Fisheries, Government provided this year for the Fisheries Department Rs. 8,30,000, but the Revised Estimates show that only Rs. 75,000 has been spent. I do not know if there was any necessity of spending the balance to still the troubled waters elsewhere.

Then, Sir, I may refer to the North Calcutta Rural Electrification Scheme. The budgeted amount for this scheme was Rs. 20 lakhs but only 5 lakhs was spent.

For the reorganisation of the Textiles Institute at Serampore Rs. 4,34,000 was provided but the amount spent is nil.

As regards Medical budget I find that for the conversion of the Dacca Medical School into Dacca Medical College the amount budgeted was Rs. 6·84 lakhs but what was the actual amount spent? It exceeded the budgeted amount by 5 lakhs and this year a provision has been made for 13 lakhs more on that account. But, Sir, what about the Campbell Medical School? For conversion of the Campbell Medical School into a Medical College nothing was budgeted and nothing was spent last year on the plea that so long as buildings are not available it is not necessary to provide anything in the Budget. But what are the provisions that have been made under Civil Works for these two colleges? I may quote the words of the Hon'ble Finance Minister himself. For the conversion of the Campbell Medical School into a Medical College with 100 additional beds and the establishment of infectious diseases hospital in Calcutta provision was made of 20 lakhs and 15 lakhs respectively in respect of lands and buildings, but even under the Civil Works Budget only Rs. 42,000 was spent out of that 20 lakhs. Well, Sir, Dacca gets her full quota—I might say more than her full quota—but nothing has been spent for the Campbell Medical School and for the establishment of an Infectious Diseases Hospital in Calcutta. I might go on mentioning items *ad finitum* like this. I might mention, for instance, that for the Peardhoba Leper Colony sanction was made for Rs. 3,60,000, but they did not spend a single pie. I do not know what is the reason. I presume the reason is that they are trying to turn the whole of Bengal into a leper colony. For Provincial Highways they sanctioned Rs. 92,10,000 but they spent only Rs. 8 lakhs. I ask this question in all seriousness why do you make large demands when you are not in a position even to utilise even the budgeted amounts?

Then, Sir, I would come to the next point of my submission. I would, Sir, respectfully urge upon the Finance Minister to tender an explanation to this House of the very peculiar feature that I find under the head "Famine". I find under the head "Famine" that the total grant comes to Rs. 2 crores 90 lakhs. It might be assumed that this amount would be spent for the famine-stricken people. But wonder of wonders I find, that of that 2 crores 90 lakhs the total salaries and establishment cost is Rs. 2·13 crores and for total gratuitous relief you are granting only Rs. 64 lakhs, that is to say, out of Rs. 100 you are spending Rs. 73·4 on establishment and only Rs. 22 as gratuitous relief. This is, Sir, preposterous if I may say so.

Now, Sir, I would refer to another point in this connection. Of the total salaries and establishment under this head you are spending on contingency Rs. 1 crore 30 lakhs, that is to say, 51 per cent. of the whole amount. I do not, Sir, know what is the meaning of contingency in this context but would it be wrong to presume that, if contingency covers 50 per cent. that is an opportunity for unscrupulous persons to grab money under that cover? It is the same position in Industries. The total expenditure on the Directorate of Sericulture comes to Rs. 2 lakhs 96 thousand and the total expenditure in connection with the Development of Sericulture is only Rs. 36,000. I can go on *ad infinitum* producing such instances, but the time at my disposal is short and I would refer only to another instance.

I come to the question of Ministers. The Revised Estimate for 1946-47 shows that we had spent Rs. 4,98,000 on Ministers. This year the budgeted

estimate shows that we are going to spend Rs. 7,24,000 on Ministers. I, Sir, really do not grudge the Ministers if they get their *dalbhat* out of the poor funds of the poor people of Bengal, but I would seriously ask the powers that be to see to the efficiency of the Ministers so that they might not bring down the good name of Bengal. I am reminded in this connection of a comment once made in this House by one of the shining lights of the Muslim League, viz., Mr. Tamizuddin Khan. While trying a definition of the Bengal Ministers, he referred to a story of Bankim Chandra. He quoted from Bankim Chandra's "Matrimonial Penal Code". In that book Bankim Chandra posed this question: What is a husband? A husband is a moveable property belonging to the wife, but without a will of its own. Explanation: Can a donkey or a cow be a husband? No, because it has a will of its own. Then the honourable member went on to say: What is a Bengal Minister? A Bengal Minister is a moveable property belonging to a gang of thieves, black-marketeers and goondas and of the Europeans and *pratariaks*, but without having a will of its own. He did not go on to the explanation in this matter, nor shall I try an explanation. But, Sir, that is the specimen of Bengal Ministers we are witnessing today.

Sir, we won't grudge the Muslims if something is granted for their development, but we do say, you have no right to defalcate public fund which comes from all sections of the public and to reserve it for one community alone.

I would end my speech with this warning that if you feel that this province of Bengal is the homeland of the Muslims only and the Hindus and Muslims who have long been living together as brothers in this province are now two different nations, I would say, Sir, that this spirit of Aurangzeb will give rise to the spirit of Shivaji in pulling down the dream empire of Aurangzeb as actually happened centuries ago.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, বারুদের স্তূপের উপর বসে বাংলার সর্বকনিষ্ঠ অর্থসচিব এবারকার বাজেট তৈরী করেছেন। যুদ্ধ, অর্থস্ফীতি, দুর্ভিক্ষ, চোরাবাজার ও দাঙ্গার আবহাওয়ায় যদি সুপরিকল্পিত বাজেট তৈরী করা সম্ভব না হয় তার দোষ দেওয়া যায় না। আম গাছে বেল ফলাতে না পারা যদি অপরাধ হয়, নিশ্চয়ই অর্থসচিব অপরাধী।

ধ্বংসোন্মুখ বাংলার জন্য সুচিন্তিত পরিকল্পনা তৈরী হতে পারে সকল দলের সম্মিলিত চেষ্টায়। অর্থসচিব নূতন বাংলা সৃষ্টির স্বপ্ন দেখছেন। এই স্বপ্নকে বাস্তবে রূপায়িত করবার জন্য তিনি সহযোগিতার হস্ত প্রসারিত করেছেন। সে দিকে দৃক্‌পাত না করে বিরুদ্ধ দল অগ্রসর হয়েছেন অভিমন্যু বধে।

বাংলার অর্থনৈতিক দেউলিয়াত্বের জন্য দায়ী কে? দায়ী সাম্রাজ্যবাদ, অখণ্ড ভারতের প্রতীক কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের মেষ্টনী ও নিমেয়ারী ব্যবস্থা, দায়ী সাম্রাজ্যবাদের সৃষ্টি জমিদার (আমাদের সম্মুখের সারিতে যাঁদের সিংহ ব্যাঘ্রেরা বসে আছেন), মহাজন, পুঁজিবাদী সাম্রাজ্যবাদের পোষ্য আমলারা (বিরুদ্ধ দলের যাঁরা আত্মীয় স্বজন), চোরাবাজারী (যাদের সঙ্গে বিরুদ্ধ দলের নাড়ীর সম্পর্ক)।

বিরুদ্ধ দলের বক্তার পর বক্তা যা বলেছেন তার সার কথা হচ্ছে—এবারকার বাজেট মোহাম্মদ আলী সাহেবের হাতে ইস্‌লাম ধর্ম গ্রহণ করেছে। ডক্টর রবীন্দ্রনাথ বা ডক্টর মুঞ্জের দাড়ী দেখে যদি তাঁদের মুসলমান মনে করা যায়, এবারকার বাজেটকেও মুসলমান বাজেট মনে করা যেতে পারে। মুসলমান শিক্ষা, ইস্‌লামিয়া হাসপাতাল, ইসলামিয়া কলেজ, মুসলমান ছাত্রদের হোষ্টেল ইত্যাদির জন্য বাংলায় সাড়ে তিন কোটি মুসলমান মাত্র ৫০ লক্ষ টাকা পেয়েছে। ৪৫ কোটি টাকার বাকিটা গিয়েছে অন্যদের পকেটে।

বাজেটে "হিন্দু" শব্দটার উল্লেখ নেই দেখে বিরুদ্ধ দল ক্ষিপ্ত হয়েছেন। কিন্তু তাঁরা ভুলে যান শাসন সংস্কারে "হিন্দু" শব্দের উল্লেখ নাই; হিন্দুর বদলে "অমুসলমান" শব্দটা সুবিধাজনক বলে অনেক দিন আগেই বিরুদ্ধ দল মেনে নিয়েছেন। বাজেটে মুসলমানদের জন্য ৫০ লক্ষ টাকার মত বরাদ্দ হয়েছে—অর্থসচিবকে ধন্যবাদ। তার বদলে কিন্তু পল্লী উন্নয়ন, কৃষি, সেচ, রিলিফ, স্বাস্থ্য ইত্যাদি বিভাগ থেকে ১০ কোটি টাকা কেঁটে নেওয়া হয়েছে, বাংলার মুসলমানের মধ্যে গ্রামে থাকেন শতকরা ৯০ জনেরও বেশী। নির্ভর করতে হয় এদের প্রধানতঃ কৃষির উপর। গ্রাম উন্নয়ন খাতে সাড়ে তিন কোটি টাকা খরচ কমান হয়েছে। কৃষি খাত

থেকে কমান হয়েছে ৫০ লক্ষ। সেচ বিভাগে গত বারের বরাদ্দের দেড় কোটি টাকা গভর্ণমেণ্ট খরচই করতে পারেননি। অথচ বাংলার দশ ভাগের এক ভাগ জমির সেচের ব্যবস্থা নেই। যুদ্ধ-ফেরৎ লোকদের শিল্প শিক্ষার জন্য বরাদ্দের ১২$\frac{১}{২}$ লাখ টাকার ১০ লাখ খরচ হয়নি। আগামী বছরের রিলিফ খাতে খরচ ৪ কোটি টাকা কমান হয়েছে। এ সব ব্যয় সঙ্কোচে অন্যেরা লাভবান হতে পারেন, কিন্তু সর্বহারা মুসলমানের হয়েছে সর্বনাশ।

কাঁচড়াপাড়া স্কিম, বিভার বিসার্চ ইনস্টিটিউট, হরিণঘাটা প্রজনন কেন্দ্র, কলিকাতার মাষ্টার প্ল্যান, ইণ্ডাষ্ট্রিয়াল বোর্ড, হাউসিং বোর্ড, টেকনলজিক্যাল ইনস্টিটিউট, দামোদর স্কিম, মোর স্কিম, ষ্টেডিয়াম ইত্যাদি ইত্যাদির বরাদ্দের কত অংশ গরীব মুসলমান পাবে? সিভিল সাপ্লাই ও বোট স্কিমের সমালোচনায় বিরুদ্ধ দল পঞ্চমুখ। এ সব অনাচারের প্রতিকার আমরাও চাই। আমরাও বলি, সিভিল সাপ্লাইএর শ্বেত হস্তীগুলোকে এবং বোট স্কিমের কর্তাদের শায়েস্তা করতেই হবে। কিন্তু বিরুদ্ধ দলকে মনে করিয়ে দেই—এ সবে মুসলমানদের ভাগ শূন্য। চোরাবাজার বাঙ্গলার বাজেট গ্রাস করেছে বলে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর শ্রাদ্ধ করা হয়েছে। এই সর্বগ্রাসী বাজারেও এক বিশিষ্ট সম্প্রদায়েরই একচেটিয়া অধিকার এবং সে সম্প্রদায় নিশ্চয়ই মুসলমান নয়।

বাজেটে অফিসারদের প্রাধান্য এবারও সুস্পষ্ট। সেই স্পেসাল অফিসার, সেই কমিশনার, সেই আড়াইহাজারী সেক্রেটারী। দেশের শাসন-ব্যবস্থাকে কিভাবে দিন দিন মাথাভারী করে তোলা হচ্ছে তা বোঝা যাবে বন বিভাগের একটা তথ্য থেকে। এই বিভাগে মাত্র ৪৪ জন অফিসার ৩ লক্ষ টাকা পেয়ে থাকেন আর আড়াই হাজার কর্মচারী পান পাঁচ লক্ষ টাকা। এই ৪৪ জন ভাগ্যবান ব্যক্তির মধ্যে মুসলমান কজনই বা আছেন? অন্যান্য বিভাগের অবস্থাও এই রকমই।

বাজেট বক্তৃতায় অর্থমন্ত্রী ইভাকুইদের বিষয় উল্লেখ করেছেন। বাংলার বিভিন্ন জেলায়, বিশেষ করে চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগের কয়েক লক্ষ ইভাকুইর উপর যে জুলুম হয়েছে ইতিহাসে তার বেশী নজির খুঁজে পাওয়া যাবে না। তাদের ক্ষতিপূরণের ব্যবস্থা আজ পর্যন্ত করা হল না। প্রাথমিক শিক্ষকদের প্রতি বাজেট-রচয়িতারা বৈমাত্রেয় ব্যবহারই দেখিয়েছেন। কোন সভ্য জাতির বাজেটে শিক্ষকদের প্রতি এরূপ উপেক্ষা দেখানো সম্ভব, ভাবতেও লজ্জা হয়।

পূর্ববঙ্গ বাজেট-রচয়িতার দৃষ্টি এবারও বিশেষ আকর্ষণ করতে পারেনি। বড় বড় স্কিমগুলো সবই পড়েছে পশ্চিমবঙ্গের ভাগ্যে। সেচ বিভাগের একটা হিসাব থেকে ব্যাপারটা পরিষ্কার হবে। সেচ বিভাগের মেরামত ও চালু রাখার (repair and maintenance) খরচা হয় মোট বৎসরে ৭৩ লক্ষ ৯৯ হাজার। এই টাকা থেকে চট্টগ্রাম ও নাকা বিভাগ পায় মাত্র ১ লক্ষ ৩১ হাজার। পূর্ববঙ্গের, বিশেষ করে চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগের নদীগুলোকে এভাবে উপেক্ষা করার ফলে পূর্ববঙ্গ আজ চলেছে ধ্বংসের পথে। পূর্ববঙ্গের নদীগুলোর দিকে এখনো যদি কর্তৃপক্ষ দৃষ্টি না দেন, পূর্ববঙ্গকে রক্ষা করা চলবে না। ফেণীতে বন্যা নিত্য নৈমিত্তিক ব্যাপার হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে। এই ছোট মহকুমায় বছর বছর ৮ হাজার একর জমির ধান নষ্ট হয় ও ২ হাজার একর জমির আখ নষ্ট হয়। রাস্তাঘাটের ক্ষতি নিয়ে বৎসরে ক্ষতি হয় ১০ লক্ষ টাকার মত। চট্টগ্রামের নদীগুলোও সংস্কারের অভাবে সর্বনাশ বয়ে আনছে লক্ষ লক্ষ মানুষের জন্য। চট্টগ্রামে সাম্প্রতিক বন্যায় কোটি কোটি টাকার সম্পদ নষ্ট হয়েছে। দামোদর স্কীমের মত কর্ণফুলি, মুহুরী, ফেণী, গুমতী এসব নদীরও সুচিন্তিত পরিকল্পনা আবশ্যক। এখানেও হাইড্রো ইলেকট্রিক নীতিতে বিদ্যুৎ করণের ব্যবস্থা হতে পারে।

নোয়াখালী-ত্রিপুরায় গভর্ণমেণ্ট রিলিফের জন্য লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ করছেন। দাঙ্গার মূল কারণ অর্থনৈতিক একথা কিন্তু কর্তৃপক্ষ ভুলে যাচ্ছেন। দাঙ্গা দূর করতে হলে দূর করতে হবে অর্থনৈতিক সমস্যাগুলো। দূর করতে হবে বন্যার—দুর্ভিক্ষের মূল কারণ।

নদীভাঙ্গা লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক আজ সর্বস্ব হারিয়ে ঘুরে বেড়াচ্ছে। নূতন চর যখন দেখা দেয় তখন স্বাভাবিক-ভাবেই নদীভাঙ্গা লোকেরা জমি দাবী করতেও পারে। কিন্তু খাসমহাল কর্মচারীদের দুর্নীতির ফলে বাণীগঞ্জেই কয়লা রপ্তানী হয় অর্থাৎ নূতন জমি পায় যাদের জমি নেই তারা নয়, যাদের যথেষ্ট জমি আছে তারাই।

যুদ্ধ-ফেরৎ বেকারদের জন্যে গভর্ণমেণ্টের সুচিন্তিত পরিকল্পনা নেই। এদের শিল্প শিক্ষার জন্যে যে বরাদ্দ ছিল কর্তৃপক্ষ তা খরচ করতে পারেননি পরিকল্পনার অভাবে। এক নোয়াখালী জেলায় দেড় লক্ষ বেকার (যুদ্ধ-ফেরৎ) ঘুরে বেড়াচ্ছে। এদের জন্য শিল্প শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা না করার অপরাধে গভর্ণমেণ্ট অপরাধী একথা বললে নিশ্চয়ই অন্যায় হবে না। চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগে নূতন নূতন শিল্প গড়ে তোলার আয়োজন না করলে

অশান্তি কিছুতেই বন্ধ হবে না। ত্রিপুরা রাজ্যে নোয়াখালী-ত্রিপুরার বহু লোকের জমি রয়েছে। এসব জমি থেকে ধান কেটে আনা আজ অত্যন্ত কঠিন ব্যাপার হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে। এ সম্পর্কে আন্দোলন করেও ফল পাওয়া যায়নি। যখন নোয়াখালীর লোক অনাহারে মরছে তখনও ত্রিপুরা রাজ্যের নিজের জমি থেকে লোক ধান আনতে পারেনি। এই সমস্যার প্রতিকার কি এখনও করা যায় না?

বাংলায় মাদ্রাসাগুলোতে শিল্প ও ইউনানী প্রবর্ত্তনের দাবী বহু দিনের। এই দাবী না মিটালে—মাদ্রাসার আমূল সংস্কার না হলে, বেকার আলেমদের সমস্যা কিভাবে সমাধান হতে পারে?

মুসলমান যুবকরা পথ খুঁজে পাচ্ছে না—কি করবে, কোন পথে অগ্রসর হবে। সুচিন্তিত পরিকল্পনা তৈরী করে এদের শিল্প ও বিজ্ঞানের পথে টেনে আনতে হবে।

এ সব ব্যাপারে আর কতদিন উপেক্ষিত হবে পূর্ববঙ্গ? ব্যাঘ্রনন্দন শ্যামাপ্রসাদ, পাইকপাড়ার বিমল "সিংহ" মহাশয়ের গর্জনে পরিষদ-গৃহ কম্পিত হয়েছে। কিন্তু সিংহ ব্যাঘ্রের হুঙ্কার সত্ত্বেও কায়েমী স্বার্থের বিড়াল-বাচ্ছা-গুলো মাথা তুলে উঠছে। গোলদীঘির মুখার্জি ব্যানার্জি লিমিটেডের খাস তালুক ও করপোরেশনের অজীয়ান আস্তাবলের সবগুলো বিড়াল-বাচ্ছা বেরিয়ে এলে সিংহ ব্যাঘ্রের গর্জন হয়ত স্তব্ধ হয়ে যাবে।

বাঙ্গলার জনকল্যাণ জোড়াতালি দিয়ে হবে না। তার জন্য দরকার সাম্রাজ্যবাদ, জমিদারী, পুঁজিবাদ, কায়েমী স্বার্থবাদ, ব্রাহ্মণ্যবাদ ও সর্বশ্রেণীর শোষণের অবসান।

যদি জনকল্যাণ সত্যই কাম্য হয়; আসুন, একযোগে অগ্রসর হই, সাম্রাজ্যবাদ ও শোষণের অবসান ঘটাই। বিমল সিংহ ও তাঁর স্বগোত্রীয় বর্দ্ধমান, কাশিমবাজার, ময়মনসিং যাঁরা জমিদারীর ক্ষতিপূরণ ৮২ কোটি টাকা নিয়ে নূতনভাবে শোষণের জন্যে ওঁৎ পেতে আছেন, তাঁরা ঘোষণা করুন ক্ষতিপূরণ ছাড়া জমিদারী উচ্ছেদ করবেন। প্রধান প্রধান শিল্পগুলোকে আসুন জাতীয় সম্পত্তিতে পরিণত করি। কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, কর্পোরেশন ও লালদীঘির নোকরশাহী সাম্রাজ্যবাদ ও ব্রাহ্মণ্যবাদের আসুন অবসান ঘটাই।

বাংলার চারিদিকে আজ বিপ্লবের পদধ্বনি শোনা যাচ্ছে। কান পেতে শুনুন—পাঠ করুন দেওয়ালের লেখা। বাংলায় আজ যে বিপর্য্যয়, তা প্রকৃতিরই প্রতিশোধ। পরচর্চা ছেড়ে আত্মসমালোচনার ভিতর দিয়েই আসবে সত্যিকারের জন-কল্যাণ।

ডক্টর শ্যামাপ্রসাদ যেভাবে বিষোদ্গার করলেন তাতে আবার দাঙ্গার আবহাওয়াই ফিরে আসবে। দাঙ্গা হলেই আসবে অভিন্যান্স—পুলিশের কর্তৃত্ব। এবারকার বাজেটেই পুলিশের বরাদ্দ বেড়েছে ৭৫ লক্ষ টাকা। দাঙ্গা আর জনকল্যাণ এক সঙ্গে আনতে পারে না। বাংলায় শান্তি যদি ফিরিয়ে আনতে চান—চিকিৎসককে নিজের চিকিৎসায় মনোনিবেশ করতে হবে।

বাংলার হিন্দু-মুসলমান সর্বহারা আজ ফরিয়াদ করছে। আসুন, কায়েমী স্বার্থ বিসর্জন দিয়ে নব সৃষ্টির কাজে অগ্রসর হই। নইলে যে অগ্নিশিখা চারিদিকে জ্বলে উঠেছে তা নিববে না—নিবতে পারে না।

Mr. BANKUBEHARI MANDAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we must judge this budget from the point of view of a common man. We must try to realise what the Finance Minister has done for the rural Bengal. We must see how much a villager, a cultivator has been benefited by this budget.

We find, Sir, with great despair that there is no adequate provision in this budget towards this end.

Sir, it is the bounden duty of every Government to do equal justice to all sections of the people under it but the present budget shows that equal justice has not been done to the different communities.

The Finance Minister has created a special fund called the Moslem Education fund and proposes to make an annual contribution of 10 lakhs for this fund. An extra provision of 2 lakhs 18 thousand has been made for the Muslim students hostels in Calcutta and an additional 1 lakh 80 thousand has been provided for grants to old scheme Madrassa and Farkania Madrassa. A sum of Rs. 29,000 has been provided for additional facilities in the Islamia College and the Presidency College for the teaching of Muslim students. We do not grudge these arrangements. But I like to draw the

attention of the members of this House towards the arrangement the Finance Minister has done for the education of the Scheduled Caste students who are more educationally backward than the Muslims.

The Scheduled Caste members with their utmost endeavour and agitation succeeded in inducing the then Finance Minister to make a provision of Rs. 5 lakhs in the budget of 1938-39 for the education of the Scheduled Castes, but since then for the last 5 years no provision was made for Scheduled Caste education. Then in the budget of 1944-45 a provision of recurring grant of 5 lakhs was made. We tried to make it 10 lakhs but the Government paid no heed to it. We must thank the Finance Minister for raising this fund to 10 lakhs but he should have made it a recurring grant. We must tell him that this amount is quite insufficient in comparison with the number of Scheduled Caste students. The Finance Minister should have made a separate grant for the hostels of Scheduled Caste students as he has done in the case of Muslim students. There are 4,76,700 Scheduled Caste students. There are 270 M. E. and 70 H. E. Schools for Scheduled Caste students. But this recurring grant of Rs. 5 lakhs is quite insufficient for these students, schools and other things. I shall present before you, Sir, the percentage of stipends that are given to Scheduled Caste students. They are as follows: an H. E. school student gets only 15 per cent.; an M. E. school student gets 4 per cent.; and a college student gets 17 per cent.; Rs. 150 is given to High Schools and Rs. 60 only to M. E. Schools.

Now, Sir, though the Finance Minister has made an additional grant of Rs. 5 lakhs but this is only for this year. He has not made it recurring.

Then, Sir, all the members of this House are pressing year after year for the opening of charitable dispensaries in each union, but the Finance Minister has made no provision for the Union Board Charitable Dispensaries. He has made provision for a temporary Medical College in Lake Area with 1,000 beds and for the conversion of Campbell Medical School to a Medical College and for the conversion of Dacca Medical School to a Medical College. The Finance Minister should know that Calcutta is not Bengal and that Dacca is not Bengal. He should have made provision for mufassal medical schools.

Sir, we all know that about 5 aerodromes were constructed in the small subdivision of Asansol and many villages were acquired within a short notice for military purposes. Those unfortunate villagers have not yet been able to build their houses elsewhere and they were waiting to get back their houses after the war but the Government has opened Bihar refugee camps in those villages instead of giving back the owners their houses. I am informed that many of them are willing to go back to their homes as there is peace in Bihar, but I do not know what induces the Government to keep them in Bengal at an enormous cost.

Now, Sir, there is one thing I wish to point out. There is corruption everywhere in every department from top to bottom. Like other Governments, the Finance Minister of this province also should have made provision for an anti-corruption department.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Mr. ABUL KALAM SAMSUDDIN : চেয়ারম্যান মহাশয়, মাননীয় অর্থ সচিব এবারকার যে বাজেট ব্যবস্থা পরিষদের সম্মুখে উপস্থাপিত করেছেন, তা একেবারে নিখুঁত, নির্ভুল, অনবদ্য হয়েছে, এ কথা কেউ বলবেন না, কেউ বলেনও নি, এমন কি সরকার পক্ষীয় সদস্যরাও তার তীব্র সমালোচনা করেছেন। দুনিয়ার কোন সরকারেরই কোন বাজেট কখনও সব সমালোচনার অতীত হয়ে এ যাবৎ আত্মপ্রকাশ করেনি, কাজেই এবারকার বাংলার বাজেটের যথাযোগ্য সমালোচনা হবে, এতে কোন পক্ষের কোনরূপ আপত্তির কারণ থাকতে পারে না। কিন্তু সমালোচনা যথাযোগ্য ও ন্যায়ানুমোদিত হওয়া দরকার, এই সকলে--অন্ততঃ যাঁরা দেশের জনসাধারণের মঙ্গল চান তাঁরা কামনা করেন। একদেশদর্শী সমালোচনা মঙ্গলের চাইতে অমঙ্গলই বেশী ডেকে আনে। দলীয় অন্ধ প্রশংসা যেমন বাঞ্ছনীয় নয়, কারণ তাতে বাজেটের দোষত্রুটির সংশোধনের কোনো উপায় হয় না, তেমনই বিপক্ষ

দলের একপেশে নিন্দাও খুবই ক্ষতিকর, কারণ destructive criticism ভুলত্রুটি সংশোধনের সহায়তা করে না, বরং সে সংশোধন প্রবৃত্তিকে বিগড়ে দেয় এবং তার ফলে যাঁরা একপেশে নিন্দায় মেতে উঠেন, তাঁরা জনসাধারণের স্বার্থের ক্ষতিই করেন।

বর্তমান বাজেট আলোচনায় আমরা কী দেখছি? বিপক্ষদলীয় সমালোচকগণ এ যাবত বাজেটের কেবল একপেশে নিন্দাই করে চলেছেন। শুধু তাই নয়, তাঁরা নানারূপ কুৎসিত এবং অসত্য উদ্দেশ্য আরোপ করে চলেছেন মন্ত্রিসভার উপর। আগেই বলেছি: কোন বাজেট কখনো একেবারে ভুলত্রুটি শূন্য হয়নি--কাজেই আলোচ্য বাজেটও ভুলত্রুটির অতীত নয়। এই সব ভুলত্রুটি নিয়ে নিশ্চয়ই আলোচনা চলতে পারে এবং চলাও উচিত। আর কিভাবে তার সংশোধন সম্ভব তার পন্থা বাতলানোর অধিকারও সকলেরই আছে। কিন্তু বিরোধী পক্ষ তো ব্যাপারটা সেভাবে দেখছেন না। তাঁরা দেখাচ্ছেন বাজেটের সব কিছুই ভুল। শুধু তাই নয়, মন্ত্রিসভা দুরভিসন্ধির বশবর্তী হয়েই এ বাজেটে এমন সব জিনিষ সন্নিবেশিত করেছেন, যা জনসাধারণের অমঙ্গলকর, এমন কথাও তাঁরা বলেছেন, সাম্প্রদায়িকতা নামক একটা শব্দ বহুদিন থেকেই তাঁদের মুখস্থ আছে; ঘন ঘন তাঁরা এই শব্দটাই স্থানে অস্থানে প্রয়োগ করে মন্ত্রিসভাকে এবং তাঁদের সমর্থকদিগকে ঘায়েল করার চেষ্টা করেছেন এবং এখনো করছেন। কিন্তু তাদের জানা উচিত এ কৌশল বাসি হয়ে গেছে--মুসলমানদিগকে সব বিষয়ে অপরাধী সাব্যস্ত করার এ ব্যবসায়ী পুরাণো কৌশল আর চলবে না, সত্যকারভাবে সাম্প্রদায়িক ভাবাপন্ন কারা, এ আর এখন কারো কাছে গোপন নেই --অন্ততঃপক্ষে নিরপেক্ষভাবে ভারতীয় রাজনীতির ধারা যারা লক্ষ্য করেছেন তাঁদের কাছে ব্যাপারটা এখন দিবালোকের মতোই স্পষ্ট হয়ে গেছে। জাতিভেদ এবং অস্পৃশ্যতাকে যারা এই বিজ্ঞানোন্নত বিংশ শতাব্দীতেও আঁকড়ে পড়ে আছে, নিজেদের অচলায়তন ছাড়া বাইরের সমস্ত মানব জাতিকে যারা আপন মনে করার দুঃস্বপ্নও দেখতে পারে না--ঘৃণা করে, তাদের আর যাই বলা চলুক, মানব প্রেমিকও বলা যেতে পারে না, জাতীয়তাবাদী বলাও চলে না, অন্ততঃপক্ষে, এই শ্রেণীর exclusively স্বাতন্ত্র্যবাদীদিগের পক্ষে নিজদিগকে জাতীয়তাবাদী বলে জাহির করা জাতীয়তাবাদ কথাটার অপমান ছাড়া আর কিছুই নয়। তাঁরা যখন সাম্যবাদী মুসলমানদিগকে সাম্প্রদায়িকতাবাদী বলে অভিহিত করেন, তখন ব্যাপারটা সত্যই হাস্যকর হয়ে উঠে।

কাজেই সাম্প্রদায়িকতা ও জাতীয়তার কথা আপাততঃ থাক। ওদিক দিয়ে বিশেষ সুবিধে হবে না। ও পুরাণো বকেয়া কৌশল চলবে না। এখন আলোচ্য বিষয়ে আসা যাক। এবারকার বাজেটে দোষত্রুটি যথেষ্ট আছে, একথা আগে আমি বলেছি। সে সম্পর্কে ইতিপূর্বে সরকার পক্ষের অনেকেই অনেক আলোচনা করেছেন। বিরোধী পক্ষের মাননীয় সদস্যদের অনেকেও অনেক যথার্থ দোষত্রুটি দেখিয়েছেন। তাঁরা একদেশদর্শী হয়ে আলোচনায় সাম্প্রদায়িক মনোবৃত্তির চরম পরিচয় দিলেও অনেক সত্যকার দোষত্রুটির দিকেও দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করতে চেষ্টা করেছেন। বিশেষ করে, মাননীয় সদস্য মিঃ সুরেশ চন্দ্র দাশগুপ্ত constructive criticism করতেই চেষ্টা করেছেন। সত্যই তিনি বলেছেন: গরীবের যথেষ্ট উপকার হতে পারে, তেমন ব্যবস্থা করতে এ বাজেটে কৃপণতা করা হয়েছে। আমি তাঁকে এ সত্যভাষণের জন্য অভিনন্দন জানাচ্ছি। এ কৃপণতার একটি মাত্র দৃষ্টান্তের কথা আমিও উল্লেখ করব। বাজেটে প্রাইমারী শিক্ষকদের বেতন বাবদে মাত্র ৫৪ লক্ষ বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে। বাংলার প্রাইমারী শিক্ষকের সংখ্যা প্রায় দুই লক্ষের মতো কাজেই শিক্ষকেরা গড়ে যে বেতন পাবেন, তাতে তাঁদের গ্রাসাচ্ছাদনের ব্যবস্থাও হবে না। শিক্ষা বিভাগের আবদালী চাপরাশীরাও এই হতভাগ্য প্রাইমারী শিক্ষকদের চাইতে ভাগ্যবান। এই চূড়ান্ত অবিচারমূলক ব্যবস্থা কিছুতেই চলতে দেওয়া যেতে পারে না। জাতির ভবিষ্যৎ বংশীয়দের শিক্ষাভার, মানুষ করার ভার যাদের উপর ন্যস্ত, তাদের প্রতি এ আচরণ কোনো মানুষ বরদাস্ত করতে পারে না। প্রাইমারী শিক্ষকগণ তাদের প্রতি এই অবিচারের প্রতিবাদে ধর্মঘট করার সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করতে বাধ্য হয়েছেন। আগামী এপ্রিল মাসে তাঁদের ধর্মঘট শুরু হবে। যদি শীগগীর এর প্রতিকার ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করা না হয় এবং এই ধর্মঘটের ফলে যদি বাংলার ছোট ছোট ছেলে-মেয়েদের লেখাপড়া বন্ধ হয়ে যায়, তবে তার চেয়ে দেশের দুর্দিনের কথা কল্পনায়ও করা যায় না। আমি বাংলার মন্ত্রিসভাকে, বিশেষ করে শিক্ষা মন্ত্রীকে ও অর্থসচিবকে অনুরোধ জানাই, বিলম্ব না করে এর একটা ব্যবস্থা করুন--প্রাইমারী শিক্ষকদের দাবী মেনে নিন। তাঁদের দাবীর সঙ্গতি ও ন্যায্যতা সম্পর্কে কোন প্রশ্নই উঠতে পারে না। তাদের যা দাবী, নিরপেক্ষভাবে বিচার করতে গেলে বলতেই হবে যে এ একেবারে minimum দাবী, অন্যান্য অনেক ব্যয় বরাদ্দ কমিয়ে হলেও এদের দাবী পূরণ করা উচিত হবে।

এই শ্রেণীর মারাত্মক দোষত্রুটি এবারকার বাজেটে আছে এবং সে সম্পর্কে আমার পূর্ববর্তী বহু সদস্য বিশদভাবে আলোচনা করেছেন। কাজেই আমি আর সে সবের পুনরাবৃত্তি করতে চাই না। কিন্তু এই সব দোষত্রুটির constructive criticism এক কথা আর প্রত্যেক ব্যাপারে মন্ত্রীদের দুরভিসন্ধি আবিষ্কার করে উত্তেজনা

সৃষ্টির চেষ্টা করা অন্য কথা। মিঃ বিমল কুমার সিংহ ও ডাঃ শ্যামাপ্রসাদ মুখার্জি প্রভৃতি বিরোধী পক্ষের কয়েকজন সদস্য শেষোক্ত চেষ্টাই করেছেন--এটা খুব দুঃখের বিষয়। এবা শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য প্রভৃতি ব্যাপারে টাকা বরাদ্দেরও নিন্দা করেছেন। এছলামিয়া কলেজ সম্প্রসারণের জন্য দশ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দের কথায় এদের দ্বিতীয় বিশ্বর উত্তেজনা দেখা গেছে, শিক্ষায় অনগ্রসর মুছলমানরা চিরদিন শিক্ষায় অনগ্রসরই থাকুক, এ মতলব না থাকলে কেউ এ ব্যবস্থার প্রতিবাদ এমনই নিশ্চিতভাবে জানাতে পারবেন না।

কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় চিরদিন মুসলমানদের প্রতি অবিচার করে এসেছে এবং ডাঃ শ্যামাপ্রসাদ মুখার্জি প্রভৃতি সে অবিচারে সায় দিয়ে এসেছেন। তাই আজ বাজেটে এ ব্যয়বরাদ্দে তাঁর গাত্রদাহ উপস্থিত হয়েছে। কিন্তু নির্মমতার একটা সীমা থাকা উচিত এবং এর পরেও জাতীয়তার বড় বড় বুলি কপচানোতে লিপ্সায় আড়ষ্টতা আসা উচিত। কিন্তু হিন্দু সভার অন্যতম প্রধানের এ আচরণে অবশ্য বিস্ময়ের বিষয় কিছুই নেই।

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. JOGENDRA CHANDRA DAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, বাংলার শতকরা ৮৭ জন অধিবাসী কৃষক-মজুর এবং অত্যন্ত দরিদ্র। তাদের পেটে ভাত নাই, পরণে কাপড় নাই, শীতে বস্ত্র নাই--দাঙ্গার ফলে তাদের অনেকে বাড়ীঘর ছাড়া। এই দুর্দিনে বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট এই সব দরিদ্র কৃষকদের মাথায় বাড়ী দিয়ে কোটি কোটি টাকা আদায় করছেন। বাংলা দেশে taxএর অভাব নাই--agricultural income-tax, sales tax, education tax ইত্যাদি এই সমস্ত tax নাম দিয়ে নানা প্রকারে গরীবদের কাছ থেকে বঙ্গীয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট কোটি কোটি টাকা আদায় করেন ও করছেন। কিন্তু বঙ্গীয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের অযোগ্যতার ফলে আজ আমাদের সম্মুখে deficit budget উপস্থিত করা হয়েছে। এই রকম deficit budgetএ আমি মনে করি Sir, আজ যদি কোন মানুষের নৈতিক অধঃপতন ঘটে, তাহলে অতি অল্প সময়ের মধ্যে বহু সম্পত্তির অধিকারী হয়ে ও সেই সমস্ত সম্পত্তি নিঃশেষ করে ফেলে, তার খরচের কোন limit থাকে না। আজ বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টেরও বহু সম্পত্তি থাকা সত্ত্বেও তাদের অসামর্থতার জন্য এবং তাদের দুর্নীতির ফলে সমস্ত নিঃশেষ করে আজ India Governmentএর কাছ থেকে ধার করছেন। এই যে মুসলিম লীগ গভর্ণমেণ্ট সেই গভর্ণমেণ্টই আবার পাকিস্থানী সুরে বলছে "বাংলায় আমরা Independent Soveriegn State দাবী করছি।" Finance Ministerকে আমি কতকগুলি বিষয়ে ধন্যবাদ না দিয়ে পারি না। তিনি ধার কর্জ করেও নিজের সম্প্রদায়কে সন্তুষ্ট করবার ত্রুটি করেন নাই এবং প্রচলিত বরাদ্দ হতেও তাদের শিক্ষার দিকে, স্কুলের দিকে, মাদ্রাসা ইত্যাদির দিকে যথেষ্ট টাকা নিজের সম্প্রদায়ের জন্য ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করেছেন।

Sir, ইনিই আবার পাকিস্থান হলে minorityর protection দিবেন প্রতিশ্রুতি দিচ্ছেন। Sir, আমরা দেখতে পাই বাজেটে ২ কোটি ৪৮ লক্ষ ৯০ হাজার টাকা relief ও educationএর জন্য ব্যয় হয়েছে। কিন্তু Sir, আমাদের ত্রিপুরা জেলার দিকে তাকালে দেখা যায়--আমাদের সেখানে relief ও rehabilitationএর কি ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে? Sir, আমি তিনটা ইউনিয়ন সম্পর্কে বলবো। সেখানে আড়াই হাজার পরিবার বিপন্ন; তাদের বাড়ীঘর সব পোড়ান হয়েছে। কিন্তু এই পর্য্যন্ত মাত্র ৩০০ শত পরিবারের জন্য rehabilitation grant হয়েছে, ৩০০ পরিবারের ঘর বাড়ীর ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে এবং বাকী সমস্ত পরিবারের জন্য কোন ব্যবস্থাই অবলম্বন করা হয় নাই।

তারপর Sir, মৎস্যজীবী জেলেদের জাল সূতা সমস্ত নষ্ট হয়েছে। তাদের reliefএর কোন ব্যবস্থা অদ্যাবধি করা হয় নাই। যে সমস্ত অঞ্চলে শত শত গরু নষ্ট হয়েছে, সেখানে একটাও গরু দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা হয় নাই। (A VOICE FROM THE GOVERNMENT BENCH: .....বিহারেও দেওয়া হয় নাই।) এখানে আমি বাংলার জন্য বক্তৃতা করছি--বিহারের কথা বলছি না। আমরা বাঙ্গালী, বাংলার আইন পরিষদে এসেছি, আমি বাংলার কথা বলতে চাই। এই ত গেল বাংলার গভর্ণমেণ্টের রিলিফের নমুনা।

আজ পুলিশের জন্য দেখা যায় ৮ লক্ষ টাকা অতিরিক্ত বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে। পুলিশের কার্য্যকলাপ আমরা দেখেছি কলকাতার riotএ, ঢাকার riotএ এবং বিশেষ করে নোয়াখালী ও ত্রিপুরার দাঙ্গার সময় যখন মানুষকে নৃশংসভাবে হত্যা করা হয়েছে, তার ধনসম্পত্তি লুট করা হয়েছে, পুলিশ তখন নিরপেক্ষ ছিল, তার প্রতিকারের কোন রকম চেষ্টাই তারা করে নাই। যাতে নাকি তারা organised যে সমস্ত গুণ্ডারা অপরাধ করেছে, নারী অপহরণ করেছে, লুণ্ঠন করেছে, নরহত্যা করেছে তাদের গ্রেপ্তার করে, তারও কিছু করে নাই। এমন কি তাদের জন্য কোন investigation করবারও ব্যবস্থা হচ্ছে না। (A VOICE FROM GOVERNMENT BENCHES: Look at Bihar.) আমি প্রথমেই বলেছি আমি বাংলার দিকে তাকাব। 16th

August last যখন নাকি চাঁদপুরে গোলমাল হয়েছিল তখন পুলিশের সামনে হিন্দুদের দোকানপাট সব লুট করেছে, আর ওদিকে পুলিশ নিরপেক্ষ, তখন তারা কোন ব্যবস্থা করে নাই। এই সমস্ত ব্যবস্থা দেখলে, পুলিশের কথায় ও বঙ্গীয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের দরদের কথায় গল্পের হবুচন্দ্র রাজার গবুচন্দ্র মন্ত্রীর কথা মনে পড়ে। কাজেই পুলিশদের জন্য যে বাজেট করা হয়েছে এটা আমি মনে করি অত্যন্ত অন্যায় করা হয়েছে। এবং পুলিশ এই যে অন্যায় করেছে সেটা সম্ভব হয়েছে এই গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিরপেক্ষতার ফলে।

এখন Sir, Scheduled Caste education সম্পর্কে দু একটি কথা বলবো। Scheduled Casteএর জন্য বঙ্গীয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের খুব দরদ। Scheduled Casteএর জন্য ১০ লক্ষ টাকা বাজেটে বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে। এই দশ লক্ষ টাকা কত বছরে ব্যয় হবে তা বলা যায় না। Scheduled Caste ছাত্রদের কাছে জানতে পারলাম--I. A. ক্লাসে ৬৲ টাকা ও B. A. ক্লাসে ৮৲ টাকা করে stipend দেওয়া হয়। ছাত্রেরা 1st yearএর টাকা 2nd yearএ, 2nd yearএর টাকা 3rd yearএ এবং 3rd yearএর টাকা 4th yearএ পেয়ে থাকে। এই Scheduled Casteএর টাকা ব্যয় হ'ল কি না তার দেখা শুনার কোন ব্যবস্থা হয় নাই। সেজন্য কোন অফিসারও নিযুক্ত করা হয় নাই। যে নাকি Special Officer আছে সে এই সারা বাংলা দেশের দেড় লক্ষ Scheduled Caste ছাত্রদের জন্য একজন মাত্র অফিসার। তার অন্য কোন staff নাই--সে একলা এক অফিসার মাত্র। Scheduled Caste ছেলেমেয়েদের লেখাপড়া হ'ল কি না তার দেখাশোনার জন্য কোন ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করা হয় নাই। আর পূর্ব্ববঙ্গের তিনটি districtএর ভেতর Scheduled Casteএর জন্য কোন রকম হোষ্টেলের ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। কাজেই আমি বলবো Scheduled Casteএর দু-একজনকে মন্ত্রীর গদীতে বসিয়ে সমস্ত তপশীলভুক্ত জাতি সমাজকে অন্ধকারে রাখা চলবে না। Scheduled Casteএর জন্য বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের যে কত দরদ তা আমরা বুঝতে পারছি এবং তা বেশ ভাল করেই বুঝতে পারছে নোয়াখালী ও ত্রিপুরার Scheduled Casteরা। বাংলার তথাকথিত মুসলিম লীগের কত দরদ। তপশীলভুক্ত সমাজ আজ নীরবে বসে থাকবে না--আর তারা অন্ধকারে থাকবে না,--মুসলিম লীগের পকেটে যে Minister নেওয়া হয়েছে সেই পকেট Ministerকে তারা সমর্থন করবে না।

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-55 p m. till 4-30 p.m. on Thursday, the 27th February, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 27th February, 1947, at 4-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 209 Members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Improvement of old Benares Road between Chanditala and Sheakhala.

***116. Mr. SUKUMAR DATTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Works and Buildings Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the actual work for the improvement of the old Benares Road between Chanditala and Sheakhala was commenced in 1940; and

(*ii*) that it was temporarily suspended in pursuance of the general policy of stopping all avoidable civil works expenditure during the war?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the actual work on this road will commence and when it is expected to be completed?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what amounts have been spent up till now for the purpose of land acquisition, brick ballasts, cement crete (D shape size) culverts, stone chips, and for construction of the road with cement concrete of $\frac{1}{8}$ of a mile at Sheakhala and $\frac{1}{8}$ of a mile at Kristorampur and recurring establishment expenditure?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Dwarakanath Barori): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The road between Chanditala and Sheakhala will be maintained as an unmetalled road and the work has already been started.

(*c*) Rs.69,066 was spent up to end of August, 1946. Rs.35 per month is the recurring expenditure for guarding materials.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to when the work is likely to be completed?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: The answer cannot be given off-hand.

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why this road should be kept as un-metalled?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: It requires the opinion of experts.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to whose opinion, he had taken in the matter?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: I want notice.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain why the scheme for improvement of this important road has been abandoned?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: I want notice.

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether recommendations have been received from all the Chambers of Commerce—Muslim Chamber of Commerce, European Chamber of Commerce, Indian National Chamber of Commerce, Marwari Chamber of Commerce—so that this road be improved and kept as a metalled road?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: No.

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in the Central Legislative Assembly, the Government of India decided in consultation with the Government of Bengal that this road should be maintained as a metalled road?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: I do not know.

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the recommendations and petitions have been received by the Government of Bengal to this effect from the local people and the businessmen that this road becomes very much impassable due to accumulation of knee-deep water during rainy season?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: I have no information as yet.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that a scheme for the improvement of this road was sanctioned by the Government of India as a project to be financed from the Central Road Fund as far back as 1939?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: I have no information.

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in the year 1939 an estimate was approved by the Central Government in consultation with the Government of Bengal to the effect that 3¼ lakhs of rupees should be spent for this purpose?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: I want notice.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in view of the importance of this road to the industrial area and to jute-growers he will be prepared to consider the desirability of metalling the road?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Yes; it will be considered.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in which district of Bengal this road is situated?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Please look at the map.

Bill on standardisation of weights and measures.

***117. Mr. MD. ISRAIL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state whether he is bringing up any Bill on the standardisation of weights and measures in the present Session of the Assembly?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Committee appointed for investigating on this question submitted its report to Government along with a copy of the draft Bill on the subject long ago?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for not bringing such legislation earlier?

MINISTER in charge of the DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE, LABOUR and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed): (*a*) No.

(*b*) Yes. The Committee submitted their report in December, 1944, but no draft Bill was submitted along with it as this did not specifically come within the purview of the terms of reference to the Committee.

(*c*) The recommendations made in the report were so long being examined particularly with reference to similar legislations made by the Governments of Bombay and the Punjab. The various aspects of operation of the Bombay Weights and Measures Act had also had to be investigated. It was, not therefore, possible to bring in a Bill earlier in the Legislature. I, however, hope to introduce one during the next Session.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the recommendations of the Committee with reference to answer (*c*)?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I have to ask for notice.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the results of investigation as to the operation of the Bombay Weights and Measures Act in the Bombay Province?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: The answer that has been given is quite clear. As regards recommendations, I have said that I ask for notice. As regards operation of the Bombay Act, the various aspects of operation of the Bombay Weights and Measures Act had also to be investigated. It was not therefore possible to bring in a Bill earlier in the Legislature. So the question that you have asked does not arise.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the investigation of the operation of the Bombay Act has been completed?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: About investigation I am sorry I cannot tell you just now, because the matter is being investigated.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it will be necessary for him personally to take a trip to Bombay to complete the investigation at an early date?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Bombay, or Allahabad, or Nagpur.

Scheme for better housing of labourers.

***118. Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Labour Department be pleased to state whether the Government has any plan as regards the nature of the houses to be built for labourers?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to place an outline of the plan on the Table?

(*c*) If not, does the Hon'ble Minister contemplate to prepare such a plan without the least possible delay and enforce its execution at an early date by the employers?

MINISTER in charge of the DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE, LABOUR and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed): (*a*) and (*b*) Not yet.

This Government have prepared certain plans based on some tentative suggestions in connection with a *bustee* rehousing scheme, which are under consideration. The standards formulated therein will apply in case of industrial labour, when any scheme is undertaken. A copy of those tentative suggestions is laid on the Table.

(*c*) As under present inflationary conditions, large-scale construction is not possible, only urgent schemes will be considered. The possibility of initiating such schemes is being examined. And it is proposed to encourage schemes put up by private companies by advice and assistance in the matter of supply of materials and acquisition of land.

Suggestions referred to in reply to clauses (a) and (b) of starred question No. 118.

(1) Accommodation should be of three types, e.g.—

(*a*) family flats for families, with or without children;

(*b*) hostels for single man; and

(*c*) hostels for single woman.

(2) The minimum covered floor space, exclusive of bath, W.C. and passages, but inclusive of kitchens and verdandahs should be 60 square feet per person for a family flat, slight lowering of the standard being permissible in larger flats.

(3) The minimum covered floor space, exclusive of bath and W.C., should be 50 square feet per person for hostel type accommodation.

(4) Family flats should be of 3 types—

(*a*) of a floor space of about 300 square feet for families of 4-5;

(*b*) of a floor space of about 360 square feet for families of 5-6 persons; and

(*c*) of a floor space of about 420 square feet for families of 7-8 persons.

(5) Every family flat should have at least 2 living rooms, a kitchen, a verandah, a bathroom and a privy.

(6) The following amenities should be provided in each flat—

(*a*) a built in cup board;

(*b*) a shower in the bathroom;

(*c*) a raised platform with a chute to carry away smoke and a hollow underneath the platform to store fuel;

(*d*) shelves in the kitchen for keeping utensils;

(*e*) pegs for hanging cloths; and

(*f*) a minimum of electric lights.

(7) Hostels should have communal kitchens, bathrooms and privies. Each room should accommodate four persons. Amenities should be provided on the lines of (6) above.

(8) The minimum size of a living room should be 100 square feet.

(9) The minimum height of a room should be 11 feet.

(10) The height of doors should not be less than 6 feet 3 inches. The width should not be less than 3 feet for main doors but may be as little as 1 foot 9 inches for bathrooms.

(11) Window openings should cover an area equal to 1/6th of the floor space of the room.

(12) The ratio of built up plot area to unbuilt should be 1 to 4 as a rule and must not be higher than 1 to 3.

(13) Blocks of flats or hostels should be built in convenient units, thus creating a housing estate for about 500—5,000 persons.

(14) Suitable amenities, e.g., primary schools, welfare centres, playgrounds, libraries, shops, etc., should be provided consistent with the size of each housing estate.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to mention the names of persons or institutions who made tentative suggestions in connection with the Bustee reshousing scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: How does it arise?

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: I mean who gave the suggestions?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: The Department.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the suggestions have been called in the answer "tentative" when in the last budget speech we find that the plans were final. In the last year's budget speech the Hon'ble Finance Minister said that the schemes have been taken up by the technical staff and accepted as final. When they have been accepted and made final, why the schemes are tentative now?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Did the Finance Minister say so? We would accept whatever you say.

Mr. MUHAMMAD RAFIQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government can make it final before it is accepted by this House?

(No answer.)

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when was the Government plan prepared?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Only recently.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give some idea of the plan that has been prepared?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I am sorry I cannot give off-hand.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to say who is considering the plan at present?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: This plan is being considered by the Public Health Department just at present. Afterwards it will come up before my Department.

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that the Government of India have already prepared plans as regards the nature of housing for tea labourers?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I know; but the Bengal Government has not accepted *in toto* the Government of India plan.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the consideration of the plan is likely to be completed?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I think, very soon.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether after the consideration of the plan has been completed, Government proposes to take any initiative immediately in the building of any house itself?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I have already said that owing to inflationary condition, it is very difficult just at present to take up the scheme on a large scale. We propose to start by experimenting with urgent schemes only. After the schemes have been fully taken up it will be for the Government to take up building of houses.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the scheme was not undertaken with the help of the money that was obtained from Government of India to finance Development projects?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: May be, as it has connection with the Post War Planning Scheme.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government are contemplating acquisition of land for rehousing *bustee*-dwellers at present?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: How does it arise? I submit, Sir, it does not arise.

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the Government of Bengal has not accepted the plan prepared by the Government of India for tea labourers as was stated by the Hon'ble Minister?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: The Government of India plan in that shape has not come before the Government of Bengal. I myself was present in the Conference. The Government of India has not finally decided as to what would be the shape of the building for tea labourers. That also had to be gone into by a Committee.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: With reference to answer (*c*), viz., "only urgent schemes will be considered", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the criterion for determining the urgency?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: That will be for the Government to decide.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to answer regarding *bustee* re-housing scheme, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to say whether a similar scheme was initiated by *ex*-Governor, Mr. Casey?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I cannot say.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that *ex*-Governor, Mr. Casey, had visited *bustee* areas and promised to show some tangible result within six months with regard to the introduction of *bustee* re-housing scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: That was during section 93 regime. I am sorry I cannot give you any information.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has looked up the files containing deeds and misdeeds of section 93 regime with a view to either rectify them or implement any good points, if there are any?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: We will do when occasion arises.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to say when he proposes to look into this particularly promised scheme about *bustee* re-housing in Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: That will be considered along with the whole scheme.

Mr. PROVASH CHANDRA LAHIRY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the scheme includes the bettering of housing condition of rice mill labourers in Hili and Srirampur in Dinajpur?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Government will try to consider the question of bettering the housing condition of rice mill labourers.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give an exact time when the *bustee* improvement will be undertaken?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Government is very much anxious to see that the whole thing comes to fruition, but I cannot give you an exact date.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has presonally seen the *bustees* occupied by jute mill labourers at Budge-Budge?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Yes, I have been seeing for the last thirty years.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in the formulation of the scheme regarding the housing of labourers, the actual requirement and the opinion of the labourers have been ascertained with regard to what is desired in that direction?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I can tell my honourable friend that when I had been to Bombay personally I visited the chawls and then I can tell him that when the *bustee* scheme will be considered, Bombay visit will not be necessary. At the present moment I know the condition the *bustees* are in and in spite of the fact that Government is very much anxious to see that the labour population are housed in a good condition, a proper examination would be necessary and that is the reason for this delay. We are trying to expedite the whole thing and I can assure the House that the moment we will be in a position to implement the promises, we will do it.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the *bustees* of the jute-mill labourers of Budge-Budge are not fit for human habitation?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: May be.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the *bustees* in the jute-mill areas in Bauria are very unhealthy and unwholesome for labourers to live in?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Personally I have no such information.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when was this tentative scheme as laid on the table actually drawn up?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I cannot tell you the exact date.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether giving effect to the scheme and its final re-examination are being delayed on account of the Government's attempt to find contractors from one particular community for the purpose of building?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: That question does not arise.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in view of the answer given by the Hon'ble

Minister to my previous supplementary question, he considers it desirable that pressure should be given on the jute mill authorities at Budge-Budge to demolish those *bustees* and to have fresh *bustees* of a good type prepared there?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: My friend would look at the answer in which I have said, it is proposed to encourage schemes put up by private companies by advice and assistance in the matter of supply of materials and acquisition of land. We are prepared to put pressure on the companies to see that the houses of labourers are in good condition.

Wages of factory labourers.

***119. Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Labour Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that at present wages of workers differ from factory to factory even in industries of similar nature?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) be in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability that the wages of labourers working in similar industries should be standardised?

(*c*) If so, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to formulate any definite plan with a view to achieve this standardisation in near future?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the plan is likely to be formulated?

(*e*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

MINISTER in charge of the DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE, LABOUR and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed): (*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes. A plan is under consideration.

(*d*) It is not at the moment possible to give the date by which all industries will be covered.

(*e*) Does not arise.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when and by whom was the plan which is now under the consideration of the Government prepared?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: A plan is under the consideration of the department.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: When and by whom was the plan prepared?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I cannot tell you the exact time.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long has the plan been under the consideration of Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: This plan regarding industrial wages I think we have taken up recently and we want to pursue that.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: With reference to answer (*d*) where he has been pleased to state that it is not at the moment possible to give the date by which all industries will be covered, is he in a position to state the date by which any specific industry will be covered by this plan?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: It is very difficult to say. As my friend knows—he just attended a conference only today—there are so many industries—textile, jute, engineering and other industries—and certainly wages in industries vary. I think, so far as textiles are concerned, we will be able to come to some sort of decision with regard to the condition of wages—I cannot tell you off-hand.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to his answers (*a*) and (*b*) to the effect that the present wages of workers differ from factory to factory even in industries of similar nature, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what particular industries did he investigate into relating to the point of wages?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Investigation has been made by the department so far as textile, cotton industry, etc., are concerned.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that his plan can never succeed without nationalisation of these industries?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I cannot give you any answer.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the minimum and maximum wages that are paid to labourers in different industries?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I am sorry I cannot give you the answer off-hand.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has taken any steps so far with a view to bring the wages to a standard level in given industries?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: As I have already told you, that is being investigated—it is not a very easy mater.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to the answer that he has ascertained that wages even in the same industry differ from factory to factory, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has been pleased to take any steps to ensure standardisation of wages in particular industries which he has investigated?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Directions have been given.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: How far were those directions carried out by the employers?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Directions, I mean to say, about investigation.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if, in cases where investigation has been made and the Hon'ble Minister has found that wages of labourers differ from factory to factory even in the same industry, he has given any direction to the employers to standardise the wages?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: No final direction has been given.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he contemplates issuing such directions without any further delay for the standardisation of wages?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: The moment it is finally examined.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government consider it urgent, in view of the widespread strikes which are taking place, to issue immediate orders for the standardisation of wages in a particular industry at the level of the highest rate of wages ruling in factories in that particular industry?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I must tell my friend that only this afternoon at 3 o'clock a conference was convened in the Writers' Buildings in the Cabinet room to advise Government on this very question as to how labour disputes and all other things can be settled in the best way possible. The conference has decided to set up a commitee and the personnel of the committee has also been decided. We hope some sort of a formula will be put up by that committee so that hereafter my friend Mr. Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar and the employers can work side by side and see that peaceful relationship between the employers and employees is maintained.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pelased to state the personnel of the committee which, he has just said, has been set up by the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I cannot tell you off-hand —I do not remember the names.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to when the proposed committee will be starting its work?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Very soon.

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have formulated definite plans with regard to tea labourers?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Yes, I think the employers of tea labour informed me that they have already begun to take action.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the condition of European-owned factories is better than that of the Indian-owned factories so far as wages are concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I cannot give you any answer off-hand.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will consider the desirability of fixing a minimum wage for the labourers in a factory?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Yes, we are trying to do it.

First Munsif's Court at Malda.

***120. Mr. RAMHARI ROY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department aware that the court of the First Munsif at Malda has been without any presiding officer for more than 6 months since December, 1945, to the manifold grievances of the litigant public and almost all the pending suits in the aforesaid court remaining undisposed?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken in the matter and when a Munsif is expected to be posted there?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Nagendra Narayan Roy): (*a*) Yes, the First Munsif's court at Malda has been lying vacant since the 23rd December, 1945.

At the end of December, 1945, the state of files before that court was as follows:—

	Total pending.	Stayed by Debt Settlement Boards.
Original suits	671	359
Miscellaneous cases	99	750
Execution cases	1,372	

(*b*) Owing to shortage of officers in the cadre of Bengal Civil Service (Judicial) at present, it has not been possible to post a Munsif in the vacant court at Malda. A Munsif will, however, be posted there as soon as officers are available.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়, অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি যে, আপাততঃ সেখানে কোন Munsif গিয়েছেন কি না অথবা Malda যাবার জন্য জ্যৈষ্ঠ মাসের জন্য অপেক্ষা করছেন?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN RAY: এখনও কেহ যান নাই।

Mr. RAJENDRA NATH SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of these cases and suits that were pending before the 1st Munsif's Court at Malda at the end of December, 1945, have been disposed of since that time?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN RAY: I want notice.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for this shortage of officers in the cadre of Bengal Civil Service (Judicial)?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN RAY: The last appointments were made out of the quota of 1945, and since the no appointments have been made up till now.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he proposes to appoint in this vacancy a scheduled caste Munsif?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN RAY: Appointment will be made according to the communal ratio rules.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no appointment has been made during this long period?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN RAY: It will be made soon. We hope to appoint an officer in 3 or 4 months hereafter.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many such posts are vacant in Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN RAY: I want notice.

Discontinuance of supply of some essential commodities to the Goalundo Fishermen's Co-operative Society.

***121. Mr. HARAN CHANDRA BURMAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries Department be pleased to state the reason why the Goalundo Fishermen's Co-operative Society Limited (registered No. 93F., dated the 3rd April, 1939), is not

supplied with yarn, coaltar, kerosene oil, sailcloth, salt, rice and other foodstuffs and cloth for the floating fishermen who generally catch fish at Goalundo?

(*b*) Is it a fact that a *nikery* named Assem Ali Biswas is supplied with kerosene oil and yarn for the fishermen of Goalundo Ghat?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Hossain): (*a*) Goalundo Fishermen's Co-operative Society Limited was entrusted with the distribution of capital goods among fishermen but the distribution was found most unsatisfactory and the society was found to make illegal collections on various pretexts and refuse supply to a large number of *bona fide* fishermen on the ground that they were not members of the society. The society was also reluctant to account for the goods received by it to the supervising officers of the Fisheries Directorate. Hence the concession was withdrawn.

(*b*) Yes, but not in his individual capacity, but in his capacity as the Secretary of the Ice Distribution and Fish Despatch Committee which was formed under the auspices of the Fisheries Directorate with the Subdivisional Officer, Goalundo, as its President.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state to whom or to which society yarn, etc., is now supplied in place of Goalundo Fishermen's Co-operative Society?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I would refer the honourable member to my answer (*b*).

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: In view of answer (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he thinks that these lapses were sufficient offences for withdrawing the concession?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: That was surely a sufficient cause.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Goalundo Multi-purpose Society, Limited, is guilty of these offences and also of profiteering, black-marketing and other more serious offences?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot allow so many questions to be put together.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the fishermen are satisfied with the present arrangement?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have received no complaints from the fishermen against the present arrangement.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to who are the President and Secretary respectively of Goalundo Fishermen's Co-operative Society?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I ask for notice.

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that all members of the Ice Distribution and Fish Despatch Committee are nominated by Government?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have no such information.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us what are the facts on the basis of which he replied that the distribution was found most unsatisfactory?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: This society in combination with the Bangiya Matshajibi Samity made it a condition precedent for distribution that

very recipient would have first to become member of both the bodies and ay subscription fee for running the election campaign on behalf of a andidate to the Bengal Legislative Assembly; (2) they confined the istribution to their members only and thus a large number of *bona fide* shermen who assembled at Goalundoghat from different parts were eprived of the goods although the goods were meant for the distribution *bona fide* floating fishermen at Goalundo; (3) on account of election oney they collected a huge amount from fishermen extending over several ousands of rupees from poor fishermen; (4) they sold yarn, etc., at a te above the controlled rate; and (5) they made invidious discrimination garding distribution.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be leased to state whether any prosecution was started against any one of em for illegal collection?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have no information.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be leased to state when they came to know of these malpractices of the ciety, and if after that the society was dissolved?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I am unable to answer more than one question t a time.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be leased to state when he came to know of these malpractices?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: In the middle of January.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be leased to tell us whether the Goalundo Fishermen's Co-operative Society as been dissolved?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I am not aware of that.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider he desirability of starting a case against the persons involved?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I think Government will consider that.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister e pleased to state whether Mr. Haran Chandra Burman of the Ministerialist arty is the President or Secretary of the Society?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have no information.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়, অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন যদি কোন Fishermen's Co-operative Society এই রকম অন্যায় কাজ করে থাকে তাহলে বার নতন নূতন Fishermen's Co-operative Society তাদের জানিত সেই রকম লোকের দ্বারা ঠিত হচ্ছে কেন?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have no information.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: এই সব মৎস্যজীবীদের সূতা পেতে হলে াদের Union Boardএর President দ্বারা identified হতে হয় এবং তাঁরা অনেকে এইজন্য illegal ratification গ্রহন করেন—এ খবর মন্ত্রী মহাশয় জানেন কি?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No such complaint has been received by Government.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: এই সব ব্যাপারে মফঃস্বল High Schoolএর lead Masterরা identify করতে পারবেন—Union Boardএর Presidentএর identification রকার হবে না—এই রকম আদেশ মন্ত্রী মহাশয় করবেন কি?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I do not accept the first portion of the question and so no reply is called forth for the second portion.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of the Chairman and the Secretary and the office-bearers of the Goalundo Fishermen's Co-operative Society, Limited?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I think I have already answered that question.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether fishermen were taken as members of the Ice Distribution and Fish Despatch Committee?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Yes, I think they are also members of that Committee.

Point of order.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: On a point of order, Sir,——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, please. With regard to question No. 122, I should tell the House that when Dr. Malik put the question he was not the Additional Chief Whip of the Government. Since he has now become the Additional Chief Whip, he has requested me that he wants to withdraw the question, as it is not the convention for a Parliamentary Secretary or a Whip of the Government to put questions. I hope there will be no objection to the withdrawal of the question.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, we object to the withdrawal of the question which the House is now in possession of.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: When Dr. Malik put the question he was not a Parliamentary Secretary. The assent of the Speaker was given to it and it has been printed and circulated to us. In view of the fact that it is now before the House and we are in possession of it, I do not think there is any harm in allowing the question to be answered.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a question of harm. The matter has got to be decided in relation to the fact that on this day when the question is to be answered, Dr. Malik is not an ordinary member, but the Additional Chief Whip of Government. If honourable members have no objection, I think I can allow the question to be withdrawn.

Mr. MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: On a point of order, Sir. So far as I can remember, this question was put in the last session and was due to be answered in the last session, but has been carried over. During that time Dr. Malik was not the Additional Chief Whip of Government. Now, the reply is in our hands. If the House had not got the reply, I think the mischief would not have been done. So I do not think that it is meet and proper to allow Dr. Malik to withdraw the question. The House is in seisin of the question and the members of the House have got the right to say that an opportunity should be given to have the question properly answered by the Hon'ble Minister. The only thing that the Deputy Speaker may do is not to allow Dr. Malik to put any supplementary questions.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: I submit, Sr, there were certain questions tabled by Mr. Barori and Mr. Bholanath Biswas, when they were not holding any office and those questions were allowed to be answered even after their stepping into their respective offices. Therefore I do not see any reason why this question should not be allowed.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not know what happened as I was not then in the Chair.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: But those questions were allowed to be answered, whoever might have been in the Chair.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKTER: But if Dr. Malik now withdraws his question, I think no one can compel him to have the question put, and I think the Speaker has got the power to allow questions to be withdrawn. In the circumstances I allow Dr. Malik to withdraw the question.

Mr. MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: I want to know from you, Sir, if Dr. Malik has asked for the leave of the House to have the question withdrawn. The House is in seisin of the question.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: On a point of order, Sir. We know that the Speaker has the discretion to allow or disallow any question before it is printed or placed before the House. But when a question has received the approval of the Speaker and has been printed and allowed to be circulated amongst the members and when the House is in seisin of the question, how can the Speaker disallow the question? When the question is before us, it is no longer the property of the questioner, and he cannot be allowed to have it withdrawn without the consent of the whole House. So I would humbly suggest to you to reconsider your ruling. The Speaker's privilege comes before it has received his assent or before it has been circulated within the House. So, Sir, under the new light I would request you to reconsider the ruling which you have just now given.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With the leave of the House it may be withdrawn and not otherwise.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: I would request Dr. Malik to withdraw his name, not that question.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Dr. Malik by signifying his intention to withdraw the question having been appointed as one of the Additional Chief Whips, I think he has done his part, but before he signified his intention to withdraw the question, the question and the answer were already in the hands of the members sitting on the different benches of the House, so probably he has no right to withdraw the question after it was in the hands of the members. Now when he signified his intention to withdraw his purpose is served and probably he has no intention to press the question.

Mr. ABDUL MOMIN: At that time he was Dr. Malik, M.L.A. Now it is not the same M.L.A. He has become a Parliamentary Secretary. I believe Dr. Malik, M.L.A., can withdraw it and not Mr. Malik the Parliamentary Secretary.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: ডা: মালেক যে প্রশ্ন করেছিলেন তার উত্তর এখন আমাদের হাতে এসে গিয়েছে—এ অবস্থায় তিনি এখন আর প্রশ্নটা withdraw করতে পারেন না। কারণ আমরা এখন শুধু ওর সম্বন্ধেই আলোচনা করব প্রশ্ন সম্বন্ধে নয়। কাজেই প্রশ্নটা withdraw করবার অধিকার আর প্রশ্নকারীর নাই।

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: By your ruling, Sir, you are going to establish a very valuable convention for the conduct of the business of this House for future years to come. Sir, you have got to seriously consider that if without crippling or in any other way encroaching on the cherished privileges of the members of the House, you disallow a certain question which has been circulated, then I would believe that there would be innumerable cases in which due to various vicissitudes

of fortune, one questioner to-day may become a Minister to-morrow, and you will have to disallow the question, but the question may relate to public service or public utility——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sabur, kindly take your seat.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Where is the provision for withdrawal?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have looked into the matter and I find that there are precedents both ways. The Hon'ble Deputy Leader of the Opposition has pointed out that one question put by one honourable member of the House was allowed to be answered and supplementary questions put thereto even after he became a Minister of the Government. That precedent is before the House. On the other hand, there is also a precedent, I am told, that the present Chief Whip of the Opposition, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan Mukherjee, also withdrew his question merely with the permission of the Chair. On the face of these conflicting precedents I would like some time to consider the question and I will give my decision on this point tomorrow.

Next question.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Are we to understand that this question is held over?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: We do not know who is going to be a Minister next time. We understand there is going to be expansion of the Cabinet.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: I want to draw your attention to another aspect of the matter. The officers concerned have also left Calcutta. Mr. Basu is now in Delhi and the other gentleman may also leave India in a couple of months.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you kindly take your seat? I do not like the time of the House to be taken up in this way.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: So, Sir, we take it that the question is held over.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Subdivisional Controller, Civil Supplies, Ghatal.

***123. Mr. ANNADA PROSAD CHOUDHURY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Subdivisional Controller of Civil Supplies at Ghatal (Midnapore) insisted upon petitions being written on cartridge paper at a cost of half an anna each till it was stopped by the District Magistrate when a reference was made to him;

(*ii*) whether the Subdivisional Controller of Civil Supplies, Ghatal, signs as District Magistrate and whether he did so while passing certain orders on dealers under kerosene control order;

(*iii*) whether the Subdivisional Controller of Civil Supplies, Ghatal, reinstated Kishori Mohan Banerji of Sreebora as a dealer although his licence had been cancelled previously by the District Magistrate for some irregular practice;

(*iv*) whether the Subdivisional Controller of Civil Supplies, Ghatal, issued orders on 18th June, 1946, for control of umbrellas when the declared policy and actual practice of Government in other parts was one of decontrol;

(*v*) whether he passed order on 3rd July, 1946, for wholesale control of all the 120 umbrellas indented by Jitendra Nath Datta; and

(*vi*) whether on 18th June, 1946, the same officer had allowed Rajendranath Poddar, another dealer, to sell 330 umbrellas freely and only 30 out of a total stock of 360 indented by him were to be sold under permit?

(*b*) If the answers to (*a*) (*v*) and (*vi*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for such differential treatment with the two merchants?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Subdivisional Controller of Civil Supplies at Ghatal issued four bales of cloth to Kharar Trading Association, before they received the licence, instead of supplying to the Food Committee there;

(*ii*) whether the local Food Committee received any supply of tent cloth immediately after the supply was made to the Kharar Trading Association; and

(*iii*) the dates on which the Kharar Trading Association received delivery of the first four bales and that on which the money was deposited?

(*d*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that the Enforcement Branch have seized some stock of the above Kharar Trading Association;

(*ii*) that the Subdivisional Controller of Civil Supplies at Ghatal issued special permits for an extra quantity of 2 seers of *atta* or flour to Government officers over and above their basic ration of 10½ seers of cereals which they received from Government depots; and

(*iii*) that the Subdivisional Controller of Civil Supplies at Ghatal issues permits at his discretion for supply of cloth from the Ghatal stock to outsiders?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any supply was made to the Chief Inspector of Inspection and Control, the Commercial Tax Officer, Midnapore, and a jeep driver of Midnapore?

(*f*) If the answer to clauses (*d*) and (*e*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, Government propose to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Cofran): (*a*) (*i*), (*v*), (*vi*), (*c*) (*ii*) and (*d*) (*i*) Yes.

(*a*) (*ii*) On one occasion the Subdivisional Controller did so, presumably owing to his misunderstanding of the order from the District Magistrate authorising him to exercise certain powers on behalf of the District Magistrate.

(*iii*) Yes. The Subdivisional Controller appointed Kishori Mohan Banerji as a dealer on the recommendation of the Secretary, Food Committee, and was presumably not aware of the previous orders of the Subdivisional Officer. When the previous orders came to his notice, the Subdivisional Controller asked the dealer to resign and he did so.

(*iv*) The price and distribution of umbrellas were under control in June, 1946, and are still under control. The Subdivisional Controller was therefore within his rights in issuing the orders.

(*b*) The Subdivisional Controller's explanation is that he allowed free sale of reconditioned umbrellas of poor quality for which there was no large demand.

(*c*) (*i*) Yes. But after a reference to the Director-General, Enforcement, a licence was issued to the firm soon afterwards.

(*iii*) The price was deposited by the Kharar Trading Association on 22nd June, 1946, and the delivery order in respect of the bales was issued to them on 23rd June, 1946.

(*d*) (*ii*) Yes, for dependants in excess of three from Government Ration Shops. Low paid Government employees receive rations for themselves and their dependants not exceeding three.

No such extra ration is supplied to Government officers having only three dependants.

(*iii*) and (*e*) Not as a general rule, but some textiles of an unpopular variety were allotted to a Commercial Tax Officer, a Chief Inspector of Inspection and Control and to a jeep driver who was temporarily stationed at Ghatal.

(*f*) The case started by the Enforcement Branch is being allowed to take its normal course. No action is necessary regarding allotment of foodgrains to dependants of Government employees on the same scale as to the rest of population. As regards distribution of cloth in Ghatal, fuller inquiries are being made and defects found will be rectified.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: With reference to answer (*c*)(*i*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why cloth was issued to the Association concerned without their having a license?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: Through mistake.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Subdivisional Controller has been dismissed, and if so, why?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: I have no such information.

Mr. MD. ABDUS SALAM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give the name of the Controller?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFRAN: S. K. Das.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pelased to state whether the Subdivisional Controller's explanation was considered sufficient by Government? Whether the action of the Subdivisional Controller was, strictly from the legal point of view, not a contravention?

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Question time is over.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: May I submit, Sir, that it is a very important question and it may be held over. We have to put a lot of supplementary questions.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In one hour we have done only five or six questions, and there is a large number of questions. If you want this question to be held over, I have no objection, but please also remember that if you want all your questions to be answered, you have got to proceed a little more quickly; otherwise there will be a large number of questions pending and they will not be answered during this session.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, now-a-days an honourable member, as a member, puts a question, and the answer to his question is given when he becomes either Parliamentary Secretary or Whip. I, therefore, suggest that it is better that this question should be held over.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sinha, if you really desire that the question should be held over, I have no objection.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Yes, Sir, I do.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is held over.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Statement on Balurghat incident.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I promised on the last occasion when an adjournment motion was about to be moved in this House that I would make on Thursday, a statement dealing with the general situation, similar to what occurred in Balurghat in reference to which an adjournment motion was admitted to be moved. Only very recently, as a matter of fact, just about two hours ago, I received from the District Authorties very detailed reports of the incidents, and I think that the House would like to know something more than the sketchy reports which were to hand until very recently, and I propose, Sir, with your leave, and I hope that the House will bear with me that I should make this statement tomorrow after I have digested those statements.

Extension of time for the submission of amendments.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have one submission to make. We have got four Bills—Special Powers Bill, Collective Fines Bill, Civic Guards Bill and Dacca Area Security Bill—and we shall have to put in amendments to these Bills tomorrow. In respect of Special Powers Bill and Collective Fines Bill, we will have to put in amendments tomorrow, and as regards Civic Guards Bill and Dacca Area Security Bill, we will have to put in amendments on the 3rd March which means practically tomorrow, because there will be no sitting of the Assembly from the 2nd March up to 9th March. My submission before you, therefore, is that in respect of the submission of amendments, the time may be extended, so that we may put in amendments to all these Bills on the 11th of March after the reopening of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am told that the Government will not find it possible to stick to the programme. There is no certainty that the time will be extended. What particular date will be fixed for the submission of amendments will be made known to you later on.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, it would appear there is no chance whatsoever of these Bills being taken up until after the Budget has been—as I hope it will be—passed by the House. In that case from our side we would have no objection if time is extended to the 11th.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Since the Hon'ble Chief Minister has no objection I extend the time up to the 11th of March.

Externment Order on Mr. Jyoti Basu, M.L.A.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: On a point of privilege, Sir. I would like to make a submission before you and that is that I have been served with an externment order from a part of my constituency—Mymensingh—by the District Magistrate, Mymensingh. I think it is interfering with my right to visit my constituency. On that I would like to have your ruling.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable members are aware that the Government of India Act lays down that the House is competent to pass a Bill defining the rights and privileges of the honourable members of this House, but up till now a step in that direction has not been taken as contemplated under the Constitution Act. Unless those powers are clearly defined, I am not in a position to give any decision on the point raised by Mr. Basu.

Short-notice questions.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have one submission to make. I put two short-notice questions of which one is on

the cancellation by the Madras and C. P. Governments of the quota of groundnut oil and pulses. I would like to know what has happened to that question.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As regards short-notice questions I would request the honourable member to see me in my Chamber.

Supplementary Demands.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to present before the House, the supplementary estimate of expenditure for the current year. The total amount covered by these estimates is over Rs. 7,16 lakhs out of which 1½ lakhs is for charged expenditure and the balance is voted. I may state here that in my Budget Speech a few days ago I have already explained broadly all the circumstances necessitating the increase of expenditure according to the revised estimates as compared with the original budget estimates and the details under each head have also been furnished more fully in the explanatory memorandum on the budget, that is, the Red Book. The reasons for the present demands in the supplementary estimates have been set out in the explanatory memorandum given under each head and will be gone into more fully by the Hon'ble Minister concerned as each demand is moved. I shall, therefore, now confine myself to a very brief resume of these supplementary estimates. The House will find that by far the largest demand is under "Famine", a demand of nearly 3 crores. This large additional expenditure is mainly due to an increase in expenditure for gratuitous relief, purchase of large stocks of preserved foodstuffs for relief purposes, distribution of doles and clothings on a larger scale and intensification in the opening of test relief work. The next major item of demand is under miscellaneous where an additional expenditure over Rs. 2 crores has been found necessary for the relief of riot victims in Calcutta and other places and for the Bihar refugees. Bracketed with this item is an expenditure of half a crore for the Kanchrapara area development scheme for industrial, residential and other purposes which will be financed by loan to be obtained from the Government of India for productive or self-financing development projects. Under Police, the supplementary estimate is of the order of Rs. 37 lakhs; a large portion of this demand is due to the fact that recoveries from the Government of India for increased expenditure on Police are expected to be less than was originally assumed. The balance is mainly on account of larger expenditure on development projects which are being financed from grants by the Central Government and also for the strengthening of the Calcutta and Bengal Police by substantial increase in personnel, provision of new arms, better transport facilities and extension of the wireless system of communication between police-stations within the Province. Under General Administration the extra demand is for Rs. 24 lakhs spread over a number of items as indicated in the explanatory memorandum, the main items being a provision of Rs. 9 lakhs for post-war unemployment relief, Rs. 2 lakhs for purchase and maintenance of aircrafts and jeep cars. The supplementary demand under Loans and Advances Bearing interest stands at very nearly one crore of which 50 lakhs is for advance to cultivators, 19 lakhs for cattle loan and 26½ lakhs for loan to the Calcutta Corporation for certain items mentioned in the Explanatory Memorandum. All these loans are of course ultimately recoverable. Two other items call for specific mention in this connection of token. These are the demands for one rupee each under Education and Medical for the purpose of obtaining the assent of the Legislature to the expenditure from the Muslim Education Fund created from the current year for the advancement of education

of Muslim students. These token grants are necessary to meet the requirements of audit. The demands under the remaining heads are comparatively small and as the reasons therefor have been furnished below such head, I need not trouble the honourable members with any further explanation for supplementary demands under those heads.

General Discussion of the Budget.

Mr. MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in rising to offer a few general comments on the budget, I want to tell the Hon'ble the Finance Minister that I am fully conscious of the difficulties that beset him and the grave turmoil through which Bengal has pased in recent months. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has presented before the House a very huge deficit budget again that has utterly disappointed us. This Government could do much if they wished as the resources and revenues of this Province are quite adequate to meet the necessaries and expenditure of Bengal.

Sir, we expected some new orientation of the budget this year, but our hopes are dashed to the ground and we are utterly hopeless to find that he has simply chewed the cud, i.e., he has only repeated the previous years' budgets with some petty modifications and alterations which are indispensable, retaining the same old framework and policy of the Government.

Sir, we know that about 90 per cent. of the total population of Bengal live on agriculture. Now when we go through the budget we find that under the head "Agriculture" the expenditure budgeted for, is too inadequate. We find no well-thought out scheme or programme, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has adopted for the improved method of cultivation and thereby to ameliorate the condition of the agriculturists who use implements of Adam's time. They have got no cattle to plough their lands. They are helpless against the inclemencies of weather and as a result, famine is the inevitable and general occurrence in the countryside, in every year. The people living in the villages only hear of an agricultural officer or demonstrator of the Government, but they are not in any way benefited by him. In imitating the habit of his boss the demonstrator puts on hat and shoes and being afraid of the mud, he will never enter a village where his presence is essentially required. If we analyse the expenditure on agriculture, it would appear that pay of officers, pay of establishments and contingencies have exhausted a major portion of the provision budgeted for. It is evident, this department is completely out of touch with the masses.

Also there are certain other provisions under the heads—Irrigation, Embankments, Drainage works, etc., in the budget; but in the absence of methodical planning we find only a drainage of public money without any substantial or material work. A few days ago we have got notice of a Bill under the style, "The Bengal Acquisition of Waste Land Bill, 1947". We don't know what the ulterior motive of the Government is with regard to this Bill, but had there been any adequate provision and proper facilities of irrigation, embankment or drainage work for cultivation, Sir, I could assure the Finance Minister that there would not have been any scrap of waste land remaining fallow and uncultivated in this Province where man power is quite sufficient to deal with any quantity of land, and the question of depriving the private owners of their valuable lands would not have arisen. Also, there would not have been any recurrence of frequent famine and the people would never die in thousands and suffer in millions. Sir, so far as the Jalpaiguri district is concerned, we have never seen any tangible work under the head Irrigation, Embankments and Drainage work for the last ten years since the inauguration of the Provincial Autonomy in our country.

With regard to Education, specially of the Scheduled Castes education, we are practically hoping against hope. Even 2 per cent. of our people do not know how to read and write. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has graciously made a provision of an additional sum of Rs. 5 lakhs for the advancement of education of the members of the Scheduled Castes, in the budget, but unfortunately the provision made, is not of a recurring nature and the amount is too inadequate as compared with the like provision made for the advancement of Muslim education. It is a well-known fact that the Schedule Castes people are the most backward in education. This petty amount, at the present time, is quite insufficient for a section of people who form more than one-fifth of the total population of Bengal. To my mind, Sir, it is merely an eye-wash to pacify our newly appointed two Schedule Castes Minister, just in a manner we pacify a child by giving a sweet in his hands.

Sir, the Scheduled Castes people live in a very pitiable and lamentable condition. Their ignorance is colossal and their poverty is so very appalling that any popular Government worth the name should spend any amount for raising these people.

Sir, the said amount, however inadequate it might be, would be completely useless, if there be no well-thought-out scheme or plan. I am afraid, Sir, the amount may remain unexpended or it may be misspent as we find the condition of expenditure in other heads of this budget. So, I urge upon the Hon'ble Finance Minister not to neglect this ignorant mass. I urge upon him again to come forward with a clean motive, at least, to see that such may not be the fate of this amount provided in the present budget.

Sir, I ask the Treasury Bench to remember that such was also the condition of the Muslim population of Bengal, some ten years ago; but with a huge amount of public money along with powers in hand they are becoming partial and one-sided, and are making provision after provision for the advancement of their own community, neglecting or ignoring the Scheduled Castes altogether. Sir, such a state of things would not be tolerable and the Scheduled Castes people will no longer lag behind.

Sir, we find the same inflation of the budgetary expenditure and the same heavy or rather increased demands for Police and other top-heavy administrative departments; but we have seen in the Calcutta carnage what part the police played in maintaining peace and tranquillity. They were mere onlookers and at times they helped in the perpetration of serious offences instead of saving the lives and properties of the people. I hope, Sir, to see a drastic reorganisation and retrenchment in the hand of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister.

Mr. NARENDRA SINGH SINGHI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the precarious state of the province's finances, as revealed in the budget estimates presented by Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali, in the second year of his finance-ministership, is undoubtedly a dismal reflection on the condition to which Bengal has been reduced under the present administration. It amply serves to underline the disastrous consequences of the short-sighted, spendthrift policies pursued by the Bengal Government, and their utter inefficiency in properly harvesting and utilising the economic and financial resources of the province for its all-round development. The province stands today virtually on the verge of bankruptcy. It is more than apparent that unless vigorous steps are taken immediately to develop the province's own resources, and to reduce the widenning gap between income and expenditure, it might be too late to prevent a total financial break-down in near future.

Sir, it was expected of Mr. Mohammed Ali, as the Minister-in-charge responsible for rehabilitating the province's finances, after the strain and turmoil of the war years, that he should take stock of the total

financial situation as it stands today and of the over-all needs of the entire province, and then proceed on that basis, to make a constructive approach to the solution of the innumerable problems that beset the province today. But unfortunately, the budget he has presented before this House disappointingly fails us like its predecessor in the total absence of that fundamental constructive approach which might put the province on its feet again, even now. He has repeatedly harped on the hackneyed plea of the financial injustice inflicted on Bengal under the Meston and Niemeyer Awards and the extra-ordinary burdens placed on the shoulders of the Province as a consequence of the war and its aftermath. And as the inevitable sequel to this wonted plea he has again put forward the demand for the continuance of annual subventions and capital grants from the Central Government. It is pertinent to ask him however if he has done everything that lay in his power to do in order to put the finances of the Province on a stable and sound basis once again. It seems that the only measures that he has been able to rack out his brain after much thinking up till now, are firstly a tightening up of the administration of the Sales Tax, which is expected to yield a few paltry lakhs more than it is doing at present, and secondly the deputation overseas of an officer of the Finance Department to obtain up-to-date information about the incidence and structure of taxation in foreign countries. This latter step would not, it is obvious, yield anything at present, but would rather eat up at least twenty-three thousand every year till the officer on deputation concludes his educational itinerary and returns back to Bengal to report to the Hon'ble Finance Minister. One only wonders, Sir, whether in the face of the immediate requirement of devising ways and means for a total deficit of nearly 20 crores in the revised and coming year's budget taken together, the Hon'ble Finance Minister is not treating us to a piece of comic interlude. Seriously speaking, I challenge him to declare before this House what else, besides these two almost ridiculously inadequate measures, has he or the Government to which he belongs done so far to scure improvement in the revenue resources of the Province by developing the economic wealth and resources of the people particularly in the fields of agriculture and industry.

It is but a truism, Sir, that the sinews of State depend ultimately on the taxable capacity of the people and the taxable capacity in its turn depends on the wealth and productivity in the spheres of agriculture and industry. It is to the need for securing speedy developments in these two spheres that the Government should have turned first of all and here it is precisely that their failure is the most glaring. The development programmes undertaken so far have almost wholly been financed by loans and outright grants from the Centre. But so far as the present Government of Bengal are concerned, they have sigularly failed in devising and undertaking any well co-ordinated and scientific plan for the development of irrigation, agriculture or industry—I am mentioning irrigation for that is intimately connected with both agriculture and industry. What astounds one most in this connection is that the Government have failed to implement important items even of such projects of development as they have been enabled to undertake with financial help from the Centre. Public opinion in the Province have long been demanding that concrete steps should be taken for the excavation and resuscitation of derelict irrigation tanks, thousands of which lie scattered in the country-side. A sum of Rs. 30 lakhs was actually provided for in the budget estimates of 1946-47 for this purpose. But now the Hon'ble Finance Minister comes forward with the surprising statement that the scheme has been postponed without however assignning any reason for it whatsoever. Schemes worth Rs. 51 lakhs have remained unimplemented in the department of industries and agriculture taken together. The cause for the non-implementation of all these schemes have been vaguely attributed partly to disturbed conditions in the Province and partly to

unspecified technical difficulties. It seems that the plea of disturbed conditions often comes in handy for the Government to cover up their lapses in any and every sphere of activity. But the Government should remember that it would not carry them, or the Province whose destinies are now entrusted in their hands, very far unless they can show that they are doing something tangible. Unfortunately the tangible achievements of Government in respect of irrigation, industry and agriculture—the three departments of Governmental activity on which the general prosperity of the country depends to a greater extent than those in any other—are but few. In agirculture the only things that they have been able to provide for is a sum of 3 lakhs for the starting of a Salvage Farm for dry cows and buffaloes; and in industry, they have only made provisions for 2½ lakhs for the expansion and reorganisation of the Industrial Research Board and the opening of a Technological Station for experimenting in fish-processing and the utilisation of fish-wastes. The most that can be said in favour of these projects is that though useful they do not reach the core of the basic problems of industry and agriculture.

The basic problem in industry is one of the availability of power at the cheapest rates. The ability of a nation to undertake the execution of a plan of all round industrial development is almost synonymous with the development of its power potentiol—both thermal and hydro. The question of exploring the possibilities of hydro-electrical development in the Province easily comes to the mind in this connection. The House would like to know from the Government how far their previously announced objective of damming the Teesta for the purpose of developing electrical energy for the use of the whole of North Bengal has progressed. Similar schemes might with advantage and great profit be undertaken in other parts of the Province also. The House would also be interested to know what the Government have done so far in utilising the data provided by the River Research Institute for the development of large-scale irrigation projects. It is needless to point out that mere expansion of the River Research Institute without a corresponding eagerness to utilise the results of its researches and labours for the benefit of the Province has no meaning.

Sir, I would request the Government to plan in advance of time with a long-range view towards the future. It is undeniable that Bengal is fast lagging behind other Provinces in the matter of industrial development. Her industries have been localised mainly in and around Calcutta and in the tea and coal producing regions. Leaving aside tea and coal these are again mainly confined to jute. Barring Calcutta and Narayanganj and one or two railway and coal centres Bengal has hardly any industrial town worth the name. There are immense possibilities of industrial development throughout the whole length and breadth of the Province, if only proper facilities and cheap power could be provided throughout the Province by a well-planned and comprehensive scheme. When shall our Government wake to their responsibilities in this regard? I may tell them and their supporters in the benches opposite quite frankly—as one personally connected with land, industry and trade —that mere pre-occupation with the sharing of Government jobs and patronages of various kinds would spell ruin for the industrial future of the Province and ultimately for the very jobs that the Government could create. Look at the index of industrial development for different Provinces. Industry is really moving away from Bengal, and it would move still more speedily as the present tendency of the Government toward throwing an increasingly greater burden on industry without offering it countervailing advantages continues to grow. Let the Government take courage in both hands and lay down a proper, business-like blue-print for a well-planned and well co-ordinated development for the whole field of industry, agriculture and power resources of the Province

on scientific lines. Otherwise it would be poor solace for the starving peasantry of Bengal, particularly Mussalmans to learn from the Hon'ble Finance Minister that Provincial Department of Agriculture has acquired the latest model ice-manufacturing plant at the cost of 6½ lakhs of rupees, or for the legions of unemployed men and women that scope for industrial researches are being expanded by the Department of Industry. Sir, the Government should know it quite plainly that the days of window-dressing and outward show off are gone. What is needed is some such scheme for the development of industry and agriculture whose effect on the total economy of the Province would be felt within five to ten years of time, which would serve to raise the level of productivity in the Province and the standard of living of its common men and women and which would in the long run obviate the ignominy of habitual beggary to which the Province is obliged to submit at the present time. As an instance of what can be achieved in the matter of improving the revenue resources of the Province by a policy of industrial and agricultural planning I may cite the example of Mysore which in ten to fifteen years time has increased its revenue by ten times mainly by adopting a policy of planned agricultural and industrial development. Mysore now not only stands forth as one of the leading industrial States of India, it is at the same time one financially most solvent. The Bengal Government might with advantage emulate the fine example of Mysore nearer at home instead of sending deputations to foreign countries to study financial methods.

Looked at from the constructive point of view the budget that Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali has presented before this House is a doubly deficit one. It is a deficit budget not merely in respect of the immediate financial profit and loss account. What is worse, it shows a greater deficit in respect of that long range constructive foresight and bold financial statementship which is so urgently required today if the Province is to be saved from total bankruptcy. As it stands, however, the budget before us is a budget of impotent spendthriftness and utter financial ineptitude, looking wistfully to doles in the shape of fat subventions from the Centre to help the Bengal Government out of its difficulties and to enable them to maintain a precarious equilibrium between income and expenditure.

Conscious in his inner mind of the vital lacunae in his budget the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali has sought cleverly to throw a screen over them in the shape of communal patronage. Almost all the important items of new expenditure besides development programme covered by subventions from the Centre are earmarked for a particular community. Taking all these itmes as provided for in the Revised Estimate of 1946-47 and in the Budget for the coming year the immediate special benefits offered to the most favoured community come up at the least to the tune of rupees one crore 25 lakhs in the sum total. But this special solicitude for one community which Hon'ble the Finance Minister has sought to display is nothing but sheer camouflage. Its main purpose is to hide from the eyes of the innumerable Muslim masses of Bengal, the ugly fact of the colossal failure of the Ministry to effect any improvement in their lot, their failure to feed and clothe the starving millions, and to lead them to that haven where at least their basic physical needs would not go unsatisfied. However much the Hon'ble Finance Minister may trumpet his achievements in benefiting certain sections of his own community, he has not by any means served the lasting interests of millions of Muslim and Hindu masses of Bengal, who pine away their lives in the fields and cottages in starvation, misery and squalor. As such, I would request the House to prepare to throw away the budget presented by him outright. It is a budget of inefficiency and doleful impotency, it is a budget of communal nepotism and corruption; it can

only land us to the worst sort of financial quandary, if not in utter bankruptcy and ruin; it is a budget absolutely unworthy of consideration by the House. It only merits categorical rejection.

Mr. EBRAHIM KHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, much has been said against the Budget presented before the House and something can certainly be said against it in perfect justice, but still I feel that I cannot begin without offering my compliments to the Hon'ble Finance Minister for introducing some important novelties in the Budget for this year. I refer to the decent sum of Rs. 16 crores for development projects. I refer to the creation of Muslim Education Fund and strengthening of the Scheduled Caste Education Fund. I also mean the hostel accommodation for a large number of students who have for years together wandered about the streets of Calcutta for want of suitable accommodation. And above all I offer my compliment for the five-year plan for introducing compulsory primary education in this great Province. Unfortunately it is these peculiar provisions in the Budget which have evoked stout protests from the other side of the House. One honourable members has characterised the Budget as a "*Moglai*" budget. Sir, I know something of *Moglai* Roast and, frankly speaking, my tongue watered in the expectation that some provision might have been made in the Budget for catering *Moglai* Roast to the members in this House, but I was disappointed. Another honourable member in the course of the discussion of the Budget said that the Budget was meant purely for the Mussalmans of Bengal, while all these blessings that are coming in the wake of the freedom movements are the direct results of the solitary struggles by the members of the Hindu community. Sir, the assertion is sweeping in character. And as it comes from the lips of a man who enjoys an all-India reputation, it deserves some consideration. With the permission of the Chair I propose to take the honourable members of this House hurriedly over the period from after the battle of Plassey up to the Azad Hind movement of yesterday. I feel tempted, first of all, to refer to that movement popularly known as the Wahabi movement in India. Whether that movement has been correctly named or not it is not my purpose to say. What is important is that it was a freedom movement and for this movement hundreds of my countrymen, hundreds of men of the community to which I have the honour to belong laid down their lives ungrudgingly. Sir, we read in the history, in our school text-books that when Lord Mayo went to the Andamans for a visit, a Muslim young man stabbed him to death. He was not an ordinary murderer. History tells us that he was a young man who had seen with own eyes scores of his countrymen, scores of men of his own community who had been jailed, beaten, bayoneted and killed by our Imperialist masters. It was that scene of blood that inflamed that young man to spring upon the Governor-General and take that fatal step. We find in the papers of those days that some of the noble citizens of this Calcutta town were hanged in a manner which was not justified in any way. We may claim that the first man to be hanged for the crime of patriotism was born long before the famous Khudiram. Let me tell my friends on that side that I do not want to take away anything from the glory of that man. What I want to say is that our country was not so poor that it was for the first time that it produced a man like Khudiram.

We may next come to the Sepoy Mutiny. We know that Hindus and Muslims fought side by side for freedom movement. We hear that most of the branches of the trees that lie on the Grand Trunk Road from Howrah to Lahore had the dead bodies of our countrymen hanging for the exalted crime of love for their country—

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. DEWAN LUTFAR RAHMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to enter into a general

discussion of the Budget presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister. I have read the Budget and heard the criticisms from the Opposition. I do not know of any Budget of any Government of the world which was accepted without criticisms. Mr. Attlee's Budget is criticised by Mr. Churchill and Mr. Churchill's Budget used also to be criticised by Mr. Attlee. Honest and unbiassed criticisms are always desirable for good Government. The Budget is deficit and the Hon'ble Finance Minister is impeached for introducing such a Budget. It is said by my honourable friend Dr. Mookerjee, the great patriot of the Hindus that Bengal is thrown into the Bay of Bengal and it is mortgaged once for all and it is the Budget of future Pakistan, but we should not forget that all on a sudden the much maligned Muslim League Ministry has not introduced a deficit Budget. It is the accumulations of all deficits of the last nine years including the year when Dr. Mookerjee was himself the Finance Minister. It is the result of the legacy left by him. It will not do to forget that the present deficit is to a great extent due to the role that this Province was called upon to play during the last world war. At a time when other Provinces became rich and richer with war profits and war contracts, Bengal suffered the most being a major base for war operations in the East. Food crisis began, normal trade channels were blocked and crores of rupees had to be spent for relief and rehabilitation. Thus revenue deficit became chronic. The land revenue could have been augmented, but for the Permanent Settlement which has denied Bengal of a very formidable amount of land revenue. Along with this the Niemeyer Award made the Central Government solvent and Provinces dependent on Centre in many respects. It is said that the Bengal Budget, as one previous speaker has remarked, is a *Moglai* Budget as large sums of money are proposed to be spent for Muslim causes. The criticism is unwarranted by figures as we find that the Hon'ble Finance Minister is anxious to commemorate the memory of Mahatma Gandhi this year by alloting Rs. 10 lakhs for the education of the Harijans. What is allotted for the Muslims falls far short of their expectation. Provision should have been made for a Muslim University which is the demand of the Muslims of Bengal. This Government has been forced to make some arrangements for Muslim students because of the great Muslim killing perpetrated by the Hindus during the last carnage. Government certainly cannot keep the Muslim students in a Hindu area without making some arrangement for them not to be slaughtered by the Hindus. It has been said that Government could not spend money on agriculture, irrigation and civil works, as it had got no scheme. But we should not forget that it was not thought of at the time of passing the Budget that Bengal would have to give relief to riot victims and riot refugees of Bengal and Bihar at an enormous cost of more than two crores of rupees. Sir, if we consider the Budget thoroughly we will find that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has given more attention to Western Bengal where the Hindus are in a majority than to Eastern Bengal where the Muslims are in a majority. He has attempted to please the Hindus by putting in allotments for North Calcutta Rural Electrification Scheme, Kanchrapara Development Scheme, etc. However much he may have tried to please them, they will not cease to bite. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has done nothing for Northern Bengal. There has not been any allotment of money for any scheme in any North Bengal district. I would like to have a statement from the Hon'ble Finance Minister as to why no schemes for irrigation, resuscitation of dying rivers and *khals* have been taken up. The Pabna District Road Development Committee adopted a resolution which was timely forwarded to the Hon'ble Minister by the District Magistrate for taking up the provincial highways and for allotment of money this year for the purpose, but nothing has been allotted. I would be glad if the Hon'ble Minister makes a statement as to how he wants to distribute the sum of 54 lakhs of rupees provided for relief to primary school teachers this year. The number of

primary schol teachers exceeds two lakhs, and I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to how he wants to distribute the amount among them.

Then, Sir, the Ministry has been maligned for the loss in the Boat Construction Scheme, but boat construction was not taken up by this Ministry—it was a war measure taken up during the Section 93 regime for which this Ministry was not at all responsible.

With these words, Sir, I support the Budget.

Mr. HASSAN ALI: Sir, I congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for his earnest zeal and enthusiasm evinced in the Budget for amelioration of the condition of the rural people of Bengal. He says in his concluding speech that the measures included in the Budget are conceived in the best and highest interests of the masses. Yes. But I ask, Sir, the masses of where?

Sir, very painfully I beg to point out that the Finance Minister's concluding portion of the Budget statement tallies very little with his distribution of nation building measures, from the territorial points of view. I have examined the Budget and found that it has been framed most inequitably from territorial view points.

Sir, the fundamental principle of Government is that the helpless shall be helped and the backward be uplifted. But I am really surprised to find that the most backward portion of the country, namely, East Bengal and North Bengal have been hopelessly neglected with the honourable exception of Dacca and Darjeeling districts respectively.

Sir, with every department a development programme has been attached, but on an examination of them you will be astonished to find that not a single measure of any considerable importance has been included for any North Bengal districts, which are notorious as most backward—backward educationally, industrially, agriculturally, in health, and in fact, in all respects. Sir, nearly 16 crores of rupees have been budgeted in the coming year for development of the country, but it is curious to note that almost 90 per cent. of this huge sum has been proposed in the Budget to concentrate on Calcutta and Suburban districts of West Bengal which are more or less urban and can hardly be called rural. It is impossible to go into details. A few instances however will prove my assertion.

Immediate improvements are to be made for the Engineering College at Sibpore and grant is to be made for the Jadavpur Engineering College and a new college of engineering is to be established elsewhere, but not at Rajshahi where it is most needed, because Rajshahi belongs to North Bengal. A residential college and Muslim hostels are to be established at Calcutta and not at Rajshahi, Rangpur, Jalpaiguri, Dinajpur or Pabna, not even at Bogra even though it is the Hon'ble Finance Minister's place.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. MD. ARIFF CHAUDHURY : ছদরে মোহতাবাম, পবিষদে উপস্থিত বাজেটের সমালোচনায় ইতিপূর্বে আমার চেয়ে অনেক যোগ্যতম সহকর্মিগণ অংশ গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন এবং যথেষ্ট দক্ষতারও পরিচয় দিয়াছেন, কিন্তু একটি বিষয়ে পূর্ববর্তী সমালোচকগণ যেরূপ শৈথিল্য প্রদর্শন করিয়াছেন সত্যই তাহা বিস্ময়কর, আমার লক্ষ্য হইল জনস্বাস্থ্য এবং চিকিৎসা সংক্রান্ত বরাদ্দ। একথা সত্য যে অন্ন এবং বস্ত্র-সমস্যার পরেই স্বাস্থ্য-সমস্যাই অধিকতর গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। অবশ্য ইহা সামাজিক দৃষ্টিভঙ্গীর কথা, কিন্তু ব্যক্তিগত জীবনে স্বাস্থ্য-সমস্যাই যে প্রধান তাহাতে সন্দেহ নাই। যদি ইহা সত্য হয় তবে দুঃখের সহিত বলিতে বাধ্য হইতেছি যে আমরা এ ব্যাপারে নিজেদেবকে অক্ষম বলিয়া সাব্যস্ত করিয়াছি। এ কথার ব্যাখ্যা না করাই সঙ্গত মনে করি, কিন্তু বিরোধী দলের মাননীয় সহকর্মিগণ যাঁহারা "সমালোচনার" চুল-চেরা তর্ক শাস্ত্রে "আচার্য্য"রূপে নিজেদেব জাহির কবিতেছেন, তাঁহাদের প্রতি লক্ষ্য করিলে এই কথাই মনে হয় আমরা নিজেদের কর্তব্য বিস্মৃত হইয়া দলগত রাজনীতির আশ্রয় লইয়াছি। আমাদের দায়িত্ব কি? আমরা নির্বাচন-কেন্দ্রে কি কি প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়াছিলাম? আমাদের দায়িত্ব এবং প্রতিশ্রুতি রক্ষার

উপায় কি? এই সমস্ত প্রশ্নকে একেবারেই আমল দিতে রাজি নই। ইহার পরিণাম আমাদিগকে ভোগ করিতে হইবে। এবং সেজন্য আমাদের প্রস্তুত থাকা উচিত। আজ আমরা যখন দলীয় রাজনীতির নেশায় বিভোর ঠিক এই মুহূর্ত্তে আমাদের প্রত্যেকের নির্ব্বাচন-কেন্দ্রে আমাদিগের যাঁরা আপনজন, দরদী প্রভৃতি মনে করিয়া ভোট দিয়াছিলেন--তাঁহাদের মধ্যে কতজনই দু ফোঁটা ঔষধের অভাবে মৃত্যুর দুয়ারে উপস্থিত। কতই না প্রিয় আত্মীয় স্বজন, পুত্রকন্যা হারাইতেছেন, কত শিশু অনাথ হইয়াছে এবং কত নারী স্বামীরত্ন হারাইতেছেন তাহার ইয়ত্তা নাই।

যাঁহারা ঔষধের অভাবে মারা যাইতেছেন, যাঁহারা বর্ত্তমান অব্যবস্থার দরুণ অসহায় অবস্থায় চলিয়া আসিতে বাধ্য হইয়াছেন, তাঁহাদের আত্মা আমাদিগকে অভিশাপ করিতেছে, তাঁহাদের ক্রন্দনে খোদার আরশ কাঁপিয়া উঠিতেছে। তাঁহাদের ক্রন্দন আমাদেরই কৃত কর্ম্মের ফল নয় কি?

আমরা পারি চেষ্টা করিতে এবং আমাদের এই চেষ্টা যাহাতে নির্ব্বিবাদভাবে প্রযোজ্য হয় তজ্জন্য আন্তরিক যত্ন নেওয়া আবশ্যক।

প্রস্তাবিত বরাদ্দের জনস্বাস্থ্য এবং চিকিৎসা সংক্রান্ত অধ্যায়ে যে সমস্ত দাগের উল্লেখ আছে তাহা মোটামুটি মন্দের ভালো। মন্দের ভালো এইজন্য বলি যে, আমরা পাকিস্থান অর্জনে বদ্ধপরিকর। আমাদের এই জাতীয় আকাঙ্ক্ষাকে রূপায়িত করার দায়িত্ব একমাত্র আমাদেরই। এবং সেজন্য চাই সৃষ্টিমূলক বস্তুপ্রেরণা, উৎসাহ এবং তদ্জাত কর্ম্মপন্থা। আমার দৃঢ় বিশ্বাস প্রস্তাবটি পাকিস্থানীর পক্ষে সব কিছুরই বিচার এই দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী লইয়া করা উচিত। তাই আমি যখনই সরকারী বরাদ্দের প্রস্তাব সম্পর্কে চিন্তা করি তখনই আমার মন এক অব্যক্ত আশঙ্কায় দুরু দুরু করিয়া কাঁপিয়া উঠে। যেন মনে হয় পাকিস্থান অর্জনে যে দুর্নিবার গতি আবশ্যক তাহার পূর্ণ সন্ধান ইহাতে পাওয়া যাইতেছে না। কারণ বরাদ্দ রচনার ধারা সাবেক আমলাতন্ত্রী হইয়া গিয়াছে বলিয়া মনে হয়—বিশেষতঃ জনস্বাস্থ্য এবং চিকিৎসা সংক্রান্ত ব্যাপারে। কেন না উহাতে "ডিটো" দেওয়া ছাড়া আর কোনও বৈশিষ্ট্য পরিলক্ষিত হয় না।

একটু তলাইয়া দেখিলেই দেশের স্বাস্থ্য-পরিস্থিতি কোন্ দিকে আগাইয়া চলিয়াছে তাহা ধরিতে বিলম্ব হয় না। প্রমাণ স্বরূপ আমি কয়েকটি সরকারী হিসাব উল্লেখ করিতেছি—

(ক) প্রতি বর্গ মাইলে জনসংখ্যা--

হিন্দু--	২৪·৫৫
মুসলীম—	২৩·৮০
	·৭৫ মুসলীম কম।

(খ) প্রতি বর্গ মাইলে মৃত্যুহার--

মুসলীম--	২১·৬৬
হিন্দু--	১৮·৮৯
	২·৭৭ মুসলীম বেশী।

(গ) মৃত প্রসূতী প্রতি হাজারে--

মুসলীম--	৪৩·২১
হিন্দু--	২৯·১৯
	২৫·২ মুসলীম বেশী।

(ঘ) শিশু মৃত্যুর হার প্রতি হাজারে--

মুসলীম--	১৬৫·৭
হিন্দু--	১৪০·৫
	২৫·২ মুসলীম বেশী।

ইহাতেই বোঝা যায় সরকার কর্ত্তৃক গৃহীত চিকিৎসা শাস্ত্র কি অদ্ভুত বৈজ্ঞানিক উপায়ে মুসলীম বাংলাকে দারিদ্র্যের পথে মৃত্যুর পথে ঠেলিয়া দিতেছে।

Mr. MONORANJAN GUPTA : মাননীয় Deputy Speaker Sir, মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয় যে বাজেট পেশ করেছেন তা যদি সর্বান্তঃকরণে সমর্থন করতে পারতাম তাহলে আমার আনন্দের সীমা থাকতো না। কিন্তু যেভাবে বাজেট তৈরী হয়েছে এবং অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের দলের নীতি অনুসারে যেভাবে তিনি বাজেটের পরিকল্পনা কার্য্যে পরিণত করে আসছেন এবং ভবিষ্যতেও করবেন বলে আশঙ্কা করার যথেষ্ট কারণ আছে, তাতে তাঁর উপস্থাপিত বাজেট সমর্থন করা আমার পক্ষে সম্ভবপর নয়। আমরা বহুকাল ধরেই স্বাধীনতার স্বপ্ন দেখে আসছি। আজ আমাদের এতদিনের স্বপ্ন সফল হওয়ার সম্ভাবনা দেখা দিয়েছে। আমরা স্বাধীনতার দ্বারদেশে উপস্থিত। ইংরেজের শাসন স্পষ্টই খসে পড়েছে। আজ আর আমাদের পক্ষে ইংরেজকে ভয় করা কিংবা তাদের উপর নির্ভর করা অনাবশ্যক ও অর্থহীন। কিন্তু আমাদের বাংলাদেশের গভর্ণমেণ্টের বাজেট থেকে এই অবস্থা পরিবর্ত্তনের কোন আভাষ পাওয়া যায় না। কিন্তু সেইটা আমি খুঁজছি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের উপস্থাপিত বাজেটে এবং সেইটা পেলেই আমি খুশী হতাম এবং বাজেট সমর্থন করতে পারতাম। কথাটা আর একটু পরিষ্কার করে বলি। আমাদের নেতারা বলেছেন এবং জাতীয় ও বিশ্ব রাজনৈতিক পরিস্থিতি বিশ্লেষণ করে স্পষ্টই বুঝতে পারা যায় যে, ভারতবর্ষ বর্ত্তমানে সত্যই স্বাধীনতার দ্বারদেশে উপস্থিত। অর্থনীতির দিক থেকে ইংরেজ আজ সম্পূর্ণরূপে দেউলে। সে আজ দেনায় ডুবু ডুবু। আমেরিকা, ক্যানাডা, মিশর, দক্ষিণ আফ্রিকা সকলেরই কাছে সে ভীষণভাবে ঋণগ্রস্ত। এমন কি আমাদের মত দরিদ্র দেশও তাদের কাছে ষোলশত কোটি টাকা পাবে। রাজনৈতিক দিক থেকে বিচার করলে ইংরেজ আজ সর্বাপেক্ষা ক্ষুদ্র শক্তি। আজ পৃথিবীতে তিনটি মাত্র প্রথম শ্রেণীর শক্তি আছে--আমেরিকা, রুশ ও ইংরেজ। এর মধ্যে ইংরেজ সর্বাপেক্ষা ক্ষুদ্র শক্তি। অপরদিকে রুশ পূর্ব্বের তুলনায় একটা বিরাট শক্তিতে পরিণত হয়েছে এবং আজ এশিয়া ও ইউরোপে তাকে ঠেকাবার মত কেউ নাই। একথা বলা যায় যে The British Empire is in a process of dissolution as an after effect of these two world wars as a result of the anti-imperialist role that Soviet Russia is playing today. আজ বিশ্ব রাজনীতির অবস্থা এমন যে একদিকে সমাজতন্ত্রবাদী রুশ ও অপরদিকে সাম্রাজ্যবাদী ইংরেজ ও আমেরিকা। উভয়ের মাঝখানে ভারতবর্ষ ভাগ্যলক্ষ্মী রক্ষা করছে। এই দুই পক্ষের মধ্যে যে পক্ষের দিকে ভারত ঝুঁকিবে সেইদিকের পাল্লা ভারী হবে। ইংরেজ যদি এখনও ভারতের টুঁটি চেপে বসে থাকে, তবে ভারত যে বিশ্ব রাজনীতিতে রুশের দিকে ঝুঁকিবে এটা খুবই স্বাভাবিক। সেরূপ অবস্থায় ইংরেজের টিকে থাকাই দায় হয়ে উঠবে। অপর দিকে স্বাধীন ভারতের মত বিরাট শক্তিকে ইংরেজ যদি বন্ধুভাবে পায়, তবে বেঁচে বর্ত্তে যায়। এই সব নানা কারণে ভারত যে আজ স্বাধীনতার দ্বারদেশে উপস্থিত তাতে সন্দেহ নাই। আজ দুনিয়ায় এমন শক্তি নেই যে ভারতের স্বাধীনতা ঠেকিয়ে রাখতে পারে। ১৯৪৮ সালের জুন মাসের মধ্যে যে কংগ্রেসের "ভারত ছাড়" প্রস্তাব কার্যকরী হয়ে দাঁড়াবে, ইংরেজের প্রধান মন্ত্রী তার সেদিনকার ঘোষণায় সে কথা স্পষ্ট কণ্ঠেই বলে দিয়েছে। ইংরেজও এদেশ থেকে চলে যাবার জন্য প্রস্তুত হচ্ছে। ইংরেজ কর্ম্মচারীরা দিন গুণছে কবে তাদের যাবার সময় উপস্থিত হয়। তাই তাদের আর গভর্ণমেণ্ট চালাবার কাজে মন নেই। একজন I.C.S. ইংরেজ কর্ম্মচারী আমাকে বলেছেন--"We feel we are carrying on care-taking Government." আজ যে গভর্ণমেণ্টের ভেতরে ও বাইরে সর্বত্র দুর্নীতির প্লাবন বয়ে যাচ্ছে--I.C.S. কর্ম্মচারীদের সেজন্য কিছুমাত্র মাথাব্যথা নাই। এখন যা চলছে তাকে সত্যি গভর্ণমেণ্ট বলা চলে না। সম্পূর্ণ অরাজকতার অবস্থা। এই অবস্থায় সবাই ভাবছে যেমন করে পারি এবং যত শীঘ্র পারি যে যার পকেট বোঝাই করি। যদি কোন একটা লোক পকেট বোঝাই করতে না চায়--সবাই বলে তাকে বোকা। এই যে একটা বিষাক্ত মনোভাব গভর্ণমেণ্ট কর্ম্মচারীদের মধ্যে সর্বত্র বিদ্যমান। আমাদের মন্ত্রী মহোদয়গণকেও এই মনোভাবেই পেয়ে বসেছে। তাঁরাও দেশ শাসনের নামে লুটের ব্যবসাই চালাচ্ছেন। তাঁদের কাজ করবার রীতি দেখেই মনে হয় তাঁরা যেন বলছেন যে "এসো আমাদের দলে, এসে পকেট বোঝাই কর।" কাজেও তাই দেখা যায়। যারা তাদের দলে আসে তারা দুদিনেই লাভের বাণিজ্য করে বেশ বড়লোক হয়ে ওঠে। মন্ত্রী মহাশয়দের এই লাভের বাণিজ্যের রাজনীতির ফলে দেশের অরাজকতা ক্রমে বেড়েই চলেছে। তাদের দলের Direct Action ও লাভের বাণিজ্যেরই নামান্তর। মন্ত্রী মহাশয়দের রাজনীতিকে লাভের বাণিজ্যের রাজনীতি ছাড়া অন্য কিছু বলা যায় না। সবাই আসে তাদের কাছে লাভের বাণিজ্য করতে। তাই তাদের দল ক্রমেই ভারী হয়ে উঠছে। কেননা লাভের বাণিজ্য করতে কে না চায়? তাই মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয়কে বাজেটটি এমন ভাবেই তৈরী করতে হয় যাতে তার দলের সবাই লাভের বাণিজ্য চালাতে পারে। অথচ উপর উপর দেখতে এমন হওয়া চাই যাতে চাকরার বুলি কপচান যায়। বাজেটের Development Programme পড়ে দেখুন। চটকদার অনেক পরিকল্পনা সেখানে দেখতে পাবেন। কিন্তু প্রায় প্রত্যেক programme যে Boat Construction Programme এরই নামান্তর হয়ে দাঁড়াবে তাতে কোন সন্দেহ নাই।

Development programmeএ মোটের উপর ২৮ কোটি টাকা বরাদ্দ হয়েছে। এ টাকার সবটাই কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের কাছথেকে পাওয়া যাবে। কিন্তু কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের খোঁজ নেওয়া উচিৎ যে মন্ত্রী মহাশয়রা এতগুলি টাকা নিয়ে ছিনিমিনি খেলছেন কিনা। আমাদের মনে এ বিষয়ে কিছুমাত্র সন্দেহ নাই যে লাভের বাণিজ্যই যাদের রাজনীতির মূল কথা তারা এ ছাড়া কিছু করতে পারে না।

কাঁচরাপাড়া Area Development Scheme শুনতে বেশ ভাল বটে। কিন্তু কাকে দিয়ে কি করান হবে, তা কেউ জানেনা এবং জানবারও উপায় থাকবে না। বহু চেষ্টায় যদি জানা যায় তবে হয়ত দেখা যাবে যে এই scheme দ্বারা মন্ত্রী মহাশয়দের দলেরই কোন কোন লোক লাভবান হয়েছে এবং তারাই সেই developed areaর মালিক হয়ে বসেছেন। ৬৮নং Development Programmeএর জন্য এক কোটি ৪৩ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ হয়েছে। কিন্তু আসল কাজ হবে এ টাকা দিয়ে কয়েকটি লোককে পোষণ করা, কাজের কাজ কিছুই হবে না। বরিশালের মাতলার বিলের মধ্যে অতিশয় প্রয়োজনীয় একটা বাঁধ দেওয়া সাব্যস্ত হয়েছিল। Estimated টাকা সবই ব্যয় হয়ে গেল কিন্তু বাঁধ হল নামমাত্র বাঁধ। ফলে জল আসামাত্রই বাঁধ গেল ভেঙ্গে অসংখ্য জায়গায় এবং বিলের অবস্থা যথাপূর্বং তথা পরংই রয়ে গেল। মাঝখান থেকে contructorদের পেট ভরাণ হ'ল মাত্র। গভর্ণমেণ্টের প্রত্যেক কাজেরই শেষ পর্যন্ত এই পরিণতি হওয়া অনিবার্য্য।

বাংলা দেশের বুকের উপর দিয়ে এতবড় একটা দুর্ভিক্ষ চলে গেল যার ফলে ৩০ লক্ষ বাঙ্গালী না খেয়ে মরে গেল। যারা বেঁচে রইল তারাও আধমরা হয়েই বেঁচে রইল। এখনও দেশে দুর্ভিক্ষের অবস্থাই চলছে। পুষ্টিকর আহারের অভাবে বাঙ্গালী জাতটাই ক্ষীণজীবী দুর্বল মনোন্মুখ হয়ে চলেছে। কে তাদের বাঁচাবে? সবাই নিজের নিজের গাঁট বাঁধতে ব্যস্ত। মন্ত্রী মহাশয়দের দয়ায় মুষ্টিমেয় লোক অর্থশালী বিত্তশালী হয়ে উঠেছে। সাধারণ লোকেরা এখনও ব্যাপারটা ভাল করে বুঝে উঠতে পারছে না। যেদিন বুঝবে সেদিন মন্ত্রী মহাশয়দের সাম্প্রদায়িকতার ফাঁকা বুলির ফাঁকিবাজী ধরা পড়ে যাবে। সেদিন আসবে তাদের হিসাব নিকাশের দিন। সেদিনের বড় বেশী দেরীও নাই। বড় জোর ইংরেজ যে কয়দিন আছে—সে কয়দিনের মেয়াদ। ইউরোপীয়ান ব্লকের ৩০টা আসন যতদিন ঠিক আছে ততদিনই মন্ত্রীমহাশয়দের জারী বুলি চলবে। তারপর সব ফক্কিকার।

আজ জাতকে বাঁচাতে হলে একটা সুষ্ঠু পরিকল্পনা করে দেশের কৃষি ও শিল্প গড়ে তুলতে হবে। সুষ্ঠু পরিকল্পনা তৈয়ার করা খুব সহজ কথা নয়। এজন্য বিভিন্ন বিষয়ের বিশেষজ্ঞের সাহায্য দরকার। কিন্তু মন্ত্রী মহাশয়গণের উপস্থাপিত পরিকল্পনা পড়ে মনে হয় না যে তাঁরা কোন বিশেষজ্ঞের সাহায্য গ্রহণ করেছেন।

গত বছর ৩৭নং Development Programmeএ শিক্ষার জন্য ৫১ $\frac{১}{২}$ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ হয়েছিল মোট item ছিল ১৬টি। তার মধ্যে ৮টি item এ যে ২১ লক্ষ ২১ হাজার টাকা ধরা হয়েছিল তার কোন item এ-ই একটা পয়সা ব্যয় করা হয়নি। এর মধ্যে দশ লক্ষ টাকা কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়কে দেওয়ার কথা ছিল, তাও দেওয়া হয়নি। এখন কথা হচ্ছে এই যে মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি হেতুতে এতগুলি item এ টাকা বরাদ্দ করেছিলেন এবং কেনই বা বরাদ্দ করা টাকা পরে কেটে দিলেন? এইরূপ প্রত্যেক পরিকল্পনা সম্বন্ধে দেখা যাবে যে বরাদ্দ টাকার এক পয়সাও ব্যয় করা হয়নি কিংবা অতি অল্প অংশই ব্যয় করা হয়েছে। আসল কথা হচ্ছে, এ বাজেট তৈরীর মূলে কোন পরিকল্পনার বালাই-ই নেই। এরূপ এলোমেলো পরিকল্পনা ছেলে খেলার ফল দাড়াচ্ছে এই যে বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের দেউলে হতে আর বড় বেশী দেরী নাই।

Development Progrommeএ নাম-কো-ওয়াস্তে অনেকগুলি item এ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে। কিন্তু প্রত্যেক item এ যে সামান্য টাকা বরাদ্দ হয়েছে তার প্রায় সবটাই যাবে মন্ত্রী মহাশয়দের বন্ধুবান্ধবগণের লাভের বাণিজ্যের চাহিদা মেটাতে। ফলে Development কিছুই হয়ে উঠবে না, গভর্ণমেণ্টের আয়ও বাড়বে না। অথচ recurring খরচ বেড়েই চলবে। ৬$\frac{৩}{৪}$ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় করে গভর্ণমেণ্ট একটা বরফের কল কিনেছেন। গভর্ণমেণ্ট কি ব্যক্তিবিশেষের মত ব্যবসায় ক্ষেত্রে অবতীর্ণ হতে চান, না, এর নাম Nationalisation of Industries? হয়ত দয়ার সাগর মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় এ ব্যবস্থা আশ্রিত-পালনের জন্য করেছেন।

বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্টের কুশাসনের একটা মস্তবড় প্রমাণ হচ্ছে এই যে হিন্দু ও মুসলমানদের মধ্যে যারা যেখানে সংখ্যায় কম তারা সেখানে নিজেদের ধনপ্রাণ নিরাপদ মনে করতে পারছে না। আসল কথা হচ্ছে দেশে শাসন শৃঙ্খলা বলে কোন পদার্থ নেই। গভর্ণমেণ্টের আইন মেনে চলবারও কারো কোন গরজ নেই। ফলে

কোথাও চলছে গভর্ণমেণ্টের অত্যাচার, কোথাও চলেছে সম্প্রদায় বিশেষের যথেচ্ছাচার। দেশে অরাজকতার পূর্ণ রাজত্ব কায়েম হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে। ইংরেজ শাসনের বজ্রমুষ্টি শিথিল হয়ে এসেছে। তাই দেখা দিয়েছে সর্বত্র অরাজকতা। একটা সত্যিকার বৈপ্লবিক পরিস্থিতি। এই রকম সময়ে এরূপ হওয়াই স্বাভাবিক। কিন্তু অরাজকতা স্বাধীনতার নামান্তর নয়। বিদেশীর শাসন শৃঙ্খলার জায়গায় নিজেদের শাসন শৃঙ্খলাই হচ্ছে স্বাধীনতা। স্বাধীনতায় পৌঁছাতে হয়ত একটা অরাজকতা--একটা বিশৃঙ্খলা অবস্থার ভেতর দিয়ে যেতে হয়। কিন্তু অরাজকতা উপস্থিত হলে প্রত্যেক দেশ-হিতৈষীর কর্তব্য যাতে শীঘ্র শৃঙ্খলা ফিরে আসে, তার চেষ্টা করা। কিন্তু বর্তমান মুসলীম লীগ গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাদের দলগত সাম্প্রদায়িক রাজনীতি অনুসরণ করতে গিয়ে তার উল্টো পথে চলেছেন, অরাজক দেশে অরাজকতা যাতে আরও বাড়ে, তারই উপায় উদ্ভাবনে তাঁরা ব্যস্ত আছেন। এই সব কারণেই এই গভর্ণমেণ্টের উপস্থাপিত বর্তমান বাজেট সমর্থন করা আমার পক্ষে অসম্ভব। অচিরে সমগ্র ভারতবর্ষ স্বাধীন হবে--এর সম্ভাবনা দেখে আনন্দে মনটা নেচে ওঠে। কিন্তু বাংলা দেশের দুর্ভাগ্য যে এই স্বাধীনতার সুফল ভোগ করা বাংলার পক্ষে আরও খানিকটা সময় সাপেক্ষ হয়ে রইল। অন্যান্য প্রদেশ যত শীঘ্র অরাজকতার দুর্ভোগ কাটিয়ে উঠতে পারবে, বাংলা দেশ তত শীঘ্র পারবে না। তার একমাত্র কারণই হচ্ছে বাংলা দেশের সাম্প্রদায়িক মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী।

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(*After adjournment.*)

Mrs. E. M. RICKETTS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the faults of the new budget have already been laboured at such considerable length, that at this stage I think the Hon'ble Minister for Finance is more deserving of commiseration than congratulation. Although it is natural to decry the efforts of one's rivals, honesty and patriotism cannot be the monopoly of any one party, and all leaders and politicians must be prepared to extend to others the same credit for altruistic intentions which they expect to receive for themselves. A budget cannot be rejected, because of disapproval of its background, and the past is only useful as a red light warning for the future, it should not deter us from renewed hope and effort.

This year's budget, like all its predecessors, is of course not without faults and lacunae, but equally definitely it is not nearly as black as it is painted. Our small Group is of opinion that taking into consideration the peculiar conditions in Bengal and the many handicaps against which the present Government has had to struggle, the Hon'ble Minister for Finance has done surprisingly well, and with the co-operation of all sections of this House, the budget, given a fair chance, should relieve much of the distress prevailing in the province. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from Ministerialist benches.)

However, divided, opinion may be on the motive behind the various proposals, no one can contest the need for the extensive and intensive development of a province, whose abundant resources have on account of the exigencies of war and general unrest, been as yet, but imperfectly exploited. Let us then be practical politicians and instead of indulging in sweeping condemnation, let us concentrate on ensuring that the vast sums earmarked for development schemes do really help the people of our provine. Criticism and opposition are only useful as a spur to encourage a Ministry to greater effort, they will never defeat a Government. The introduction of each new budget should be an occasion for the renewal of hope. The proposed expenditure will always be justified if the results come up to expectations, and it is in our hands, in the hands of all those who sit within this Chamber, to give to Bengal through the budget, the gift of life and progress or the curse of death and stagnation. This House will vote the money for the plans prepared by the best brains in the province, it is up to the administration to find suitable personnel and make certain that the plans of experts are not wrecked by the not so expert. At a later stage we hope to express our opinion on details of administration and on the actual working of the

sections; for the present our small group is prepared to give the Government whatever help and support we can in the furtherance of its general schemes for the betterment of the people of Bengal. We represent a community which has behind it a long tradition of loyal service and tested usefulness. For generations we have served our Motherland in an unobtrusive, but none the less essential capacity. Today in the general readjustment we maintain our old traditions and insist on our right to serve our country and also on the right to receive every facility to train ourselves for this service. Educational facilities in our own schools are not sufficient. We share these as far as is practicable with members of other Indian communities, and we expect the Government to provide similar reservation quotas for us in all their aided schools—Technical, Agricultural, Industrial and Medical.

In the question of employment too, it is grotesque that a community as able and willing as ours should be deprived of serving our country because of our numerical weakness. At present we are included everywhere in the microscopic allotment for "other Indian Minorities". What are our chances in the future Bengal, if for instance the admission of Anglo-Indian medical students to the Medical College Hospital continues to be limited to 1 per year? Our nurses too who for over 50 years have been the mainstay of the hospitals under the most unfavourable conditions, are now overlooked in the matter of promotions and the awarding of overseas scholarships.

In conclusion, whilst congratulating the Hon'ble Minister for the attention to detail displayed by his provision for housing schemes, I would like to remind him that as a landless community, we suffer more than most at the hands of landlords and estate agents, so that ample provision should be made for us in all new housing projects, both in town and in the suburbs. For many years we have sought a settlement of our own, rural as well as industrial, it would indeed be a splendid gesture from the strong to the weak, if the generosity of the Bengal Government made our dream come true. Capital invested in schemes for our betterment would certainly justify its expenditure and above all it would prove that the Ministry is determined to implement its promises and give the fullest consideration to the needs of the numerically weak and helpless. (APPLAUSE.)

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in five minutes it is not possible for me to go into a detailed general criticism of the budget. But I shall try to place our party's point of view with regard to the budget in a few sentences in a few words.

I agree with the closing remarks of the Finance Minister that "never before in the history of the province has there been such a unique opportunity as now presents itself for the economic upliftment of this province by planned development of our industrial and agricultural resources", and I believe that the reason for this opportunity is that a Government is in power which has been elected by a section of the people who had been promised food, land, shelter and more employment during election time, and who, I am sure, would have supported the Ministry in all that they did to fight the bureaucracy, to fight other Government forces, to fight the vested interests and to present a budget of the people. But the Hon'ble Finance Minister has not and cannot utilise the opportunity to the best advance of the province, because the policy of the Ministry has been to ditto the action of the Governor and the bureaucracy and to surrender to the vested interests, both Indian and European, and give way to the zemindars and jotedras on the countryside. For instance, we find that even the Bargadars Bill has been thrown to the wind and successfully sabotaged. And I am sure the abolition of the zemindary system will not come about. On the other hand we find that the *kisans* are being given a taste of bullets and

bayonets. Their women are dishonoured and murdered: the peace of the countryside broken by the minions of the bureaucracy, the police. The workers, for instance, the tramway workers, are being provoked to take action by the arrest of their leaders. We find that the Government is asking its police to arrest the Port workers who are on strike in Calcutta today, though the Government has no business to interfere with them. But there is no talk of nationalisation of industries, no talk of abolition of the Permanent Settlement; and it is by these means that our finances can be straightened and that the Finance Minister would not have to beg of the Centre to give him money to carry on the administration here. Therefore the Government that carries on such a policy cannot have time to find ways and means of reducing the expenditure of the Civil Supplies Department which is corrupt or of the police. I have heard people calling the budget of this Ministry a communal budget, and that means that this Ministry has thought of bringing about the good of at least the Muslim masses. But I find that in the current year's budget there is a decrease in the expenditure on Agriculture, Industries, Irrigation, Education and Civil Works. The very things which would give employment to hundreds of thousands and millions of Muslims are not done. Money which we voted last time even has not been spent. But to offset all these, to make a brave show to the Muslims they talk loudly to the Muslims about special grants for Muslim education, Muslim hostels and so on. But 90 per cent. of the Muslims live in villages and what has been done for them, I would like to know. Therefore it is wrong to say that it is even a communal budget that has been presented to us. I say this opium will not work very long: it has worked up till now. But the Muslim masses are waking today and they cannot be put off so easily, and no explanation or jugglery of figures will convince the masses that anything is being done for them through this budget. We find that for educational facilities money cannot be found for the Science College, but we find 75 lakhs more is to be spent for the police, the very police who murdered our people. And therefore it is a bureaucratic budget, and I am sorry to find that a popularly elected Ministry has brought forward this budget.

Maulvi AKBAR ALI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset I must congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister at least for the fact that the country's poor people have not been burdened with fresh taxations in preparing the budget which has been placed before the House.

Sir, I have carefully gone through the budget speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister, but I cannot say I have been satisfied with the manner of distribution of the budgeted money to different heads.

At the outset I would like to point out to the Government that on the eve of an era by which this province is going to make self-determination, the budget of the Government will show a bureaucratic spirit in giving 75 per cent. of the province's income to administration keeping only a negligible share for the people of the province. I would remind the Government that the time has come for looking to the interest of the poor people more than that of their servants. In brief I will analyse the budget. The aims of the Government should be to build up the nation in all respects. The main problems of the country are want of education, bad health of the country people, deficiency of food and absence of industries.

In the budget, it is ridiculous to find that no money has been provided for compulsory free primary education. The reason given out is rather unfortunate, as the Government has been unable to make a scheme for the same which is the most important factor of nation-building.

In the four corners of the budget there is no mention of Secondary Education Bill. The Ministry is morally bound to the people to pass

this Bill immediately and money should have been provided for the introduction of the new scheme of secondary education. I should like to know from the Hon'ble Education Minister whether the non-provision of money in the budget for this purpose amounts to dropping of the Secondary Education Bill this year also.

Another important item is health. The money set apart for health is quite insufficient.....(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. GOBINDALAL BANERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when I stand from this side of the House it is presumed that I am to criticize the budget in order to bring the Ministry into disgrace. Being fully conscious of this position, I say with all the emphasis at my command that I have been endeavouring all these days since the presentation of the budget to find out its merits and demerits in the background of the miserable plight of the people of Bengal today. It is very encouraging to find that we are fortunate enough to be in a position to spend scores of crores of rupees in the name of the people of Bengal. There is an admission on all hands that the living conditions in Bengal have miserably deteriorated in all directions. Coming, as I do, from a rural area, I have been able to see things personally and for that my mind is occupied not with party politics nor with communal interest, but with the interest of the people, Hindus and Muslims, who live in villages. With such a frame of mind I have approached the budget proposals for the year 1947-48.

Today, I am less concerned with the figures in the budget. I have tried to see light in the opening and closing paragraphs of the budget speech. But a question has arisen in my mind whether those expressions have any meaning to the mind of the party which has set up this Ministry. The Finance Minister has asked for active support of every shade of public opinion, but I am afraid he is not bold enough to receive such support if it be extended to him, because that will destroy the very foundation upon which his party has thrived. We are one with him when he deplores the present social and economic conditions of Bengal. He has based his budget estimates upon the expectations of a normal Bengal, but I am afraid he and his party have not realised that normal conditions do not come as the seasons of the year. It has to be brought about by a planned effort guided by an outlook quite different from what it is today. The problems he has put forward are provincial or national, as you say, and for that national effort is necessary and not communal or sectional. The deficit of today was the total budget estimate of a few years back. Our happy mood at the sight of the huge amount we are going to spend for our sometime blessed, but now cursed province suddenly yields to dejection, frustration and a state of helplessness. It becomes more so when we find that the amount that was provided for essential improvement of the living conditions of the poor millions of Bengal could not be spent for reasons which are certainly disgraceful. Who is going to suffer for all these?—the Muslims and non-Muslims alike. Much capital has been made of the absence of proposals for taxation, but what is the position? The taxable capacity of the province has almost been exhausted. The Finance Minister has thought it honourable to approach the untouchable Central Government with a beggar's bowl to make good the deficit which is a progressively recurring phenomenon. It is like an obstinate and spoilt child of a big but decaying family. Last year the budget criticisms were met by characterising the budget as section 93 regime budget. This year the plea has been advanced that the Nemeyer Award is unjust as a result of which abnormal conditions prevail in Bengal. The hollowness of the first plea has been ably exposed by my friend, Sree

Bimal Comar Ghose. With regard to the second, it can be said emphatically that it is the creation of the leaders of the party in power. It is criminal and more so when it is found that there are no amends for this; on the contrary the communal caravan has been speeded up.

In the budget provision has been made for Muslim Education Fund with a recurring expenditure of 10 lakhs. I do not mind for the amount, but I do certainly object to the idea which is pernicious and poinsonous. This is a prize given for the communal atrocities under the leadership of the Muslim League and for this Agriculture has been neglected, Irrigation and Civil Works, road building particularly, could not be taken up. Who has suffered for this? The Bengalee masses composed mainly of Muslims who live in villages. This year's budget has been a looter's budget. This cannot be otherwise when a communal party comes to wield power over the whole people.

Last year, Rs. 1 lakh 63 thousand was provided for the training of lower technical personnel, but the Ministry could not spend more than Rs. 24,000. I do not know whether they realised that this item was essential for industrial development. The Finance Minister thinks that good office building and the creation of more offices for different departments will serve well, the purposes for which those departments are made responsible, but, alas, buildings and chairs cannot do any good to the society of human beings. It may give enough scope for scribbling on communal ratio, but the masses can have nothing, but despair. How can he expect better service from a department which has been infected with communalism? What is happening in the Department of Civil Supplies? The less said the better, but the Finance Minister has no power now to stop the ball which has been set on rolling by the party he belongs to.

The other day we had to pass through about a dozen of ordinances. It means more power and more money and the province will be turned into a breeding ground of communalism, corruption, jobbery and wastage. What is required is a new approach to the vast problems that confront Bengal today. If the servants of the State be not inspired by a spirit of service, the ills of today cannot be made weals of tomorrow. This can easily be brought about if the communal approach be completely replaced by a provincial or national one. I am suggesting this not from the idealistic point of view, but from the point of view of provincial recovery. The Finance Minister has made provision for communal hostels, but it might have occurred in his mind, I mean in his youthful mind, that it would have been more progressive, if he could make provision for common hostels where both Hindu and Muslim students could live for their leraning. The youths of Bengal could then find a new orientation in the thoughts of their elders. Provision could be made for the establishment of communal harmony, but this is not to be. I am suggesting this, because it has economic background which benefits the masses.

There is another point which I like to mention. The Government has a peculiar habit of leaving things half-done. This has happened in the matter of education, food, buildings, irrigation and also in other spheres. I do not find any provision for embankments. In the saline water districts of lower Bengal, large areas of land remain uncultivated because of the absence of any embankments. In these days of scarcity of food, it was expected that an elaborate plan for compulsory embankments would be found in the budget. Given good embankments and good roads, the people of Bengal, Muslims and non-Muslims, could thrive well, the villages could be connected with the business centres and in this way the purchasing power of the people could increase.

This does not require technicians of rare qualities, nor does it require buildings to be erected for housing offices. But the Government could not think and act in that way. That is unfortunate.

An enormous sum of 100 crores is going to be spent in five years' time for development projects. It is the expectation of the people of Bengal that they will be immensely benefited by it, but if things proceed as they are going today, I am afraid the whole money will be squandered away. We, however, must not allow things to drift in this way. The people of Bengal must rise to a man to stop this loot and for this I take courage to convey a warning to the communal and hence dishonest Ministry that unless the whole picture is changed, there will be continued turmoil which the Finance Minister has deplored and the misery that will follow will affect the Muslims no less than others. It will not then be possible to put out the flame of the conflagration.

Mr. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not here to defend Mr. Mohammed Ali or any other Minister. Their arms are strong enough and their brains are cool enough to repel the attack. (Cheers from Government benches.)

Sir, I want to say that my friends opposite are criticizing the budget as if this Assembly is a sovereign and independent body and that they are treating the budget as if it is the budget of an independent and free Bengal. Sir, I want the House to realise that the budget which has been presented is the budget of a satellite of the Government of India which again is a satellite of the British Parliament. I want the House to realise that the British political, commercial and industrial imperialism in collaboration with the vast majority of Marwari, Bhatia and a small portion of the indigenous political, commercial and industrial satellite imperialism is sucking the life-blood of Bengal. ("Hear" "hear".) They are parasites and vampires which have eaten up the substance of Bengal leaving behind nothing but kernel without pith and bone without marrow. The Government of India which again plays the part of imperialism has robbed poor and hapless Bengal of the major portion of its income-tax, its jute duty, its customs duty, leaving the satellite Government of Bengal to shift for itself. Such is the position to which poor Bengal has been reduced. War was prosecuted and Bengal was made the base of operation and poor Bengal has suffered privations and losses on account of this also. The Civil Supplies and the Relief Departments and a host of other departments are the immediate legacies of the war. This war has let loose the spirit of Sankaracharya, the Hindu hero, who wipped off Buddhism from India and drove the same to China, Tibet and other Eastern Asiatic countries. (Laughter.) The weakening of British Imperialism gave birth to the spirit of Sankaracharya in the minds of the militant Hindus which is responsible for the rise of hosts of Hindu heroes in the persons of Veer Savarkar, Dr. Moonje, Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee and others. (Laughter.) Their principal aim is to wipe off Islam and drive them to the deserts as they drove out Buddhism to Eastern Asia. This spirit is directly responsible for the disturbances in various parts of India and it is the immediate cause of this communal fight. These disturbances have placed various parts of India, particularly Bengal and Bihar, in difficult position. These entailed heavy loss of life and property and have put a severe strain on the resources of Bengal. It is under such a shadow that this budget was presented and I seize this opportunity to congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for the very lucid budget which he has presented. I do admit that the budget is defective in many important respects.

Agriculture is the mainstay of our province, and the salvation of a country like ours lies in the practice of agricultural and industrial co-operation and introduction with the minimum loss of time of free and compulsory primary education. The economists of India and other

European countries agree to this. It is unfortunate that no provision worth the name has been made in respect of these matters in the budget. Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee says that a sub-committee should supervise the expenditure of the grants of the India Government. I don't think there can be any more preposterous proposal than this. The Government of India has robbed Bengal of a very large proportion of her income, and if it has granted subvention or grant, it has not paid what it has taken. (Cries of "hear, hear" from the Government benches.) Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee, the redoubtable Sankaracharya of modern Hindusthan, has given proof of his colossal and Himalayan ignorance of the pages of history when he says that the Muslims are pet and favourite of the British Government. (Laughter.) Muslims were suppressed by the British people—their heritage was taken, their property was confiscated, they were driven out from offices and they were reduced to poverty and penury. The Hindus suplanted them in every walk of life. Now after a stupor of 200 years they are awaking and demanding their just right.

(At this stage the red light was again lit.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Hossain, have you finished?

Mr. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: This demand has been dubbed by Hindus as communalism and this domination as nationalism. (Loud laughter.) Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee said that Muslims of Bengal never cared for the independence of Bengal. This is also false (uproar) (amidst loud laughter) and this also proves his ignorance, colossal ignorance, Himalayan ignorance of history (renewed laughter). The Muslims of Bengal were sailing in the same boat with British Imperialism, he said. (Uproar.) If he glances over the pages of history of the Mussalmans of Bengal he will find that the Muslims took the first opportunity of declaring war against the British. It began with Mir Kasem, Syed Abdulla and Titu Mia and culminated in Sepoy Mutiny. During this period hundreds and thousands of Muslims were killed and massacred and hundreds went to jail and were executed. They were not treated like the present day Congress prisoners who are served with first class diet, *rooti* and *makhan*. These Congressmen court arrest for attaining myrterhood. (Uproar.) However, let us bury the past and let us deal with the present.

(At this stage the red light was again lit.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Hossain, your time is over. Will you kindly resume your seat?

Mr. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Let us bury the past. Let us join, let us co-operate in making Bengal an independent sovereign state. (Uproar.)

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I find it difficult to start at this very moment for it is indeed an ordeal to have to contradict the worthy compliments the Hon'ble Finance Minister may be very pleased with, which he has just received from the brilliant oratory of our friends opposite.

But, Sir, I think that on this occasion it is proper to say that the budget reflects and cannot but reflect the minds of its makers. Sir, it is said that the budget of a nation ought to be like the mirror of the actual conditions that are pervailing within its national economy, but unfortunately I am constrained to say that this budget has absolutely no bearing upon the realities of the human background that exists in Bengal today. In the human context it is necessary to examine the budget to understand the plight of Bengal and to understand what manner of custodianship Bengal enjoys in the hands of the present Ministry.

Sir, I do not want to trouble this House with figures and details. Having looked into the budget very carefully from cover to cover I find

there are unmentionable features, and the verbiage under which the waste of public money has taken place has been amply exposed by my honourable friend Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha, who so ably within so short a span of time exposed the utter hypocrisy of figures which the budget wanted to pass off as currency to be accepted. Colossal amounts were provided for the purpose of certain items of nation-building operations last year, but, Sir, on re-examination it was found that those amounts were not spent at all. The Hon'ble Finance Minister pleaded the financial arrangement with the Centre as the reason or rather the chronic reason for the impecuniosity of this province. But this plea has been exploded by the masterly analysis and the thoughtful speech of the honourable member of the Opposition who opened the discussion. Sir, to all that I have to add only this—the sting of this budget lies in the addenda, which the Hon'ble Finance Minister wanted to escape unpublished before this House. Now, Sir, I will read out that portion where he makes his prophet's prophecy: "It is hoped that the Government of India will soon scrap this outmoded financial arrangement and replace it by a more equitable allocation of resources to the provinces. So long as this essential measure of reform is not undertaken, there is no other alternative to *ad hoc* financial assistance from year to year."

Sir, already the Hon'ble Finance Minister's application has been recommended by the honourable member speaking on behalf of the European Group yesterday. He has recommended, Sir, that the Government of Bengal ought to get the entire proceeds of the jute export duty in order to squander it away further. Already the whole fallacy underlying the plea of the Hon'ble Finance Minister has been laid bare by the brilliant analysis given by my honourable friend Mr. Bimal Comar Ghose. Sir, what is more distressing to find is that although all this money has been wasted yet nothing has been done with a view even to lay the foundation of the actual nation-building work. For an agricultural province like Bengal there cannot be any development of agriculture unless there has been a proper scientific soil survey throughout the province. To give an idea I would cite the question of how the available soil of Bengal could be more fruitfully utilised for the purpose of development of agriculture and increasing the yield of the agricultural products per acre without a proper soil survey. But we find that for the purpose of soil survey the League Ministry which is enjoying office and power in this province continually for about ten years—perhaps there might have been a brief holiday for sixteen months—has not found time in the course of this time to undertake the work, even the fundmaental work of soil survey for the purpose of ameliorating the agriculturists' miseries in this province, and this year a precious sum of Rs. 2 lakhs has been provided for the purpose of soil survey, whereas for the importation of immigrants from outside the province in order to infest the waste lands of the province near about a crore of rupees has been squandered away. If any industry has been built up by this League Ministry it is the industry of building up relief camps. That seems to be the major industry which this Ministry has successfully undertaken and has succeeded in building up. There is a hue and cry over these relief measures. But, Sir, I suppose the prosperity, the stability and the continued existence of this Ministry depend upon its relief operations for the relief of its henchmen and for the purpose of preparing the entire populace to come to the relief camps. I am told that the Government intends to acquire waste lands in Bengal. I do not know for what purpose these waste lands are to be acquired. We have not been presented with any complete scheme or even an idea as to why these lands are wanted. Are they required for the purpose of preparing new graveyards or cemetaries, or for the purpose of relief or for both? Will the Hon'ble Minister indicate? In its human context this budget is alarming. This budget, Sir, is not an

isolated act of squandering away money. Here there is a deliberate plan behind it. As the Hon'ble Minister has foretold, from year to year, this League Ministry will continue to present deficit budgets. Is it to frighten away the Central Government, or to make them to shoulder a perpetual liability for Bengal or to yield to the demand of Pakistanisation of Bengal—I do not know? It seems there has been a silent change of policy of the League Ministry after they found in August last that the direct step to extirpate the members of the other communities did not pay. They started a series of legislative enactments which are aimed at the extermination, through these legislative acts, of members of another community; and this Ministry has been characterised as a communal Ministry not because it will do any good to the Muslim masses—to the masses of their own community—but because this Ministry is out to destroy the members of the other community.

The weavers, Sir, in Bengal—the textile industry of which province was the pride of Europe and of the whole world—have been destroyed. We know the whole history. Today the weavers are going to be destroyed and this Ministry is squandering every month 7,000 bales of textile yarn they receive and these yarns do not find way to the weavers. There is a deliberate plan behind it. In order to patronise their own henchmen as contractors and black-marketeers, the yarn is diverted into the hands of their own henchmen and weavers are coming to extinction.

Then, Sir, there is another community called Rishis in this country. If any people need relief it is they. They have no land, no industry and all means of their livelihood have been taken away from them.

(At this stage the red light was lit.)

Sir, as time will not permit, I shall only say that there is behind this budget a deliberate plan for the extermination, one after another, of different classes of artisans who do not belong to the community of this communal Ministry, although for the good of Bengal their existence is absolutely necessary.

Mr. MD. KHUDA BUKSH: Sir, I should have thought that we heard the last of the Government's boat construction programme when the Hon'ble Finance Minister presented the budget for the current year. But, Sir, I feel sure many members of this House felt quite as dismayed as did when the Hon'ble Finance Minister again made a reference to the wonderful rivercrafts which have now no market. It would be pertinent to ask, Sir, who was the author of the boat scheme and who were the efficient officers who gave effect to the scheme. I use the word "efficient" advisedly. It calls for very superior brains, planning ability and foresight to conceive and execute a plan which right from its inception to the final closing of accounts gives unfettered scope to the less scrupulous among the officials to augment their income. May I through you, Sir, ask the Hon'ble Finance Minister what steps he has taken to ensure the best available price for these boats coming into Government coffers?

Sir, in the Agriculture Department, a Brooklyn Ice Plant has been purchased at a cost of Rs. 6¾ lakhs. I cannot understand, Sir, why this has been shewn against the Agriculture Department? I wish the Hon'ble Finance Minister had elaborated on the boons and benefits that will flow from this Ice Plant to the hapless peasants of Bengal.

Turning to the Budget Estimates of the next year, I am happy that the Ministry have realised the need of the hour and provided a sum of 15 lakhs for the education of Muslims and Scheduled Castes. For this act the Ministry have earned our grateful thanks. But I must mention, Sir, that the Ministry have not provided any money for the Muslim University in the demand of which Muslim Bengal stands united. It is certainly some consolation to know that the Islamia College is

proposed to be located on a 2,000-acre plot and will be turned into a Residential College. Another item of expenditure which will be welcomed by all sections of the House is the 54 lakhs for the Primary School teachers. There is bound to be some heart-burning among many honourable members to see that over 25 lakhs have been provided for the improvement of Engineering education of Dacca alone.

The Government must be congratulated for going ahead with their scheme of re-housing the *bustee* dwellers. The *bustees* in Calcutta must be liquidated. Sir, it was the *bustee* dwellers that had the worst of it during the communal disturbances.

Under the head "Land Revenue", we find provision for Revisional Settlement operations preliminary to State acquisition of intervening interests in agricultural lands and the liquidation of the Permanent Settlement. Sir, it is the most revolutionary scheme ever attempted in this province and I wish the Government godspeed in their noble enterprise.

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has called our attention to the extremely disquieting financial position and has indicated the necessity of exploring our own resources to the full. He has under consideration measures for tightening up of the Sales Tax. An officer has been deputed overseas to study taxation in all its aspects and implications in the more progressive countries of the world. So, Sir, fresh taxation is, so to say, round the corner. I can only hope, Sir, that the new taxes will be just, equitable and in keeping with the taxable capacity of the people of this poor province.

(The member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITY: সহকারী সভাপতি মহাশয়, এত শেষে কোন বিষয় বলা কঠিন। তথাপি যে ঘাটতি বাজেট উপস্থিত করা হয়েছে তার সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলা দরকার। ঘাটতি বাজেটের সম্বন্ধে অর্থসচিব মহাশয় অনেকগুলি কারণ দেখিয়েছেন বটে, কিন্তু সর্বাপেক্ষা বড় যে কারণটা সেইটাই তিনি দেখান নাই। সেটা হচ্চে--এই সাম্প্রদায়িক অনৈক্য যতকাল বাংলা দেশে থাকবে ততকাল বছরের পর বছর ধরে অর্থসচিব মহাশয়কে পরিষদে ঘাটতি বাজেটই উপস্থিত করতে হবে। এবং এই সাম্প্রদায়িক অনৈক্যের কারণ হচ্চে--মুসলিম লীগের নীতি। মুসলিম লীগের নীতির দরুণই আজ এদেশে সাম্প্রদায়িক অনৈক্য এতটা ব্যাপক আকারে দেখা দিয়েছে। আজকে যদি বাংলা দেশের মুসলিম লীগ এ রকম হতো যেমন কংগ্রেস প্রতিষ্ঠান যার ভিতর রয়েছে অসাম্প্রদায়িকতা তাহলে এ রকম অনৈক্য কখনো হতো না। (Dr. MALIK কেন আপনাদের হিন্দু মহাসভাটা কি?) যখন মুসলমানগণ শুধু নিজেদের সম্প্রদায়ের কথাই বলেন তখন অন্যান্য সম্প্রদায়ও তাঁদের নিজেদের কথা বলতে বাধ্য হন। মুসলমান সম্প্রদায় শুধু মুসলমানের কথাই বলে তখনই অপর সম্প্রদায় হিন্দু মহাসভার কথা বলে। গতবার যে নির্বাচন হয়েছে তাতে কংগ্রেস হিন্দুমহাসভার বিরুদ্ধে দাঁড়িয়ে তাকে পরাজিত করে নিজে জয়ী হয়েছে। কংগ্রেস অসাম্প্রদায়িক প্রতিষ্ঠান যে সমস্ত সম্প্রদায়ের সমস্ত লোকের প্রতিনিধিত্ব করবার দাবী রাখে। (A VOICE FROM THE GOVERNMENT BENCHES. We do not admit it.) কিন্তু বাংলা দেশে মুসলমানরা যদি প্রকৃত পক্ষে অসাম্প্রদায়িক হতেন অবশ্য তাদের মধ্যে অনেকের মনের ভিতর অসাম্প্রদায়িকতা রয়েছে এটা আমরা জানি--কিন্তু যদি তাঁরা প্রকাশ্যভাবে বলতেন--যেমন আমরা বলি, যে আমরা বাংলা দেশের প্রতিনিধি, আমরা শুধু মুসলমানেরই প্রতিনিধি নই, হিন্দুরও প্রতিনিধি, খৃষ্টান, এংলো ইণ্ডিয়ান, বৌদ্ধ, জৈন সকলেরই প্রতিনিধি একথা যদি বলতেন তাহলে এই রকম দ্বন্দ্ব হতো না, এবং দ্বন্দ্ব যদি না হতো, তাহলে বাজেটে ঘাটতি হলেও এত বেশী পরিমাণে হতো না। যদি এই রকম সাম্প্রদায়িকতা চলতে থাকে এবং তার ফলে যদি দাঙ্গা হাঙ্গামা মারামারি হয়, নূতন নোয়াখালীর সৃষ্টি হয়, নূতন বর্দ্ধমান, বাঁকুড়া ও মেদিনীপুরের সৃষ্টি হয় তাহলে আরো অনেক কোটি টাকা খরচ হবে। কাজেই ঘাটতি বাজেটের কারণ হচ্চে--সাম্প্রদায়িকতা। সুতরাং এই সাম্প্রদায়িকতা দূর করার কথাই আমি আপনাদের কাছে নিবেদন করব।

ইনফ্লেশন যে বাংলা দেশের বাজেটে ঘাটতির একটা কারণ একথা অবশ্য আমি স্বীকার করি। এবং যুদ্ধের জন্য বাংলা দেশের যে যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে ক্ষতি হয়েছে এটাও ঠিক, এবং গত ৯ বছর ধরে বাজেটের কিছু কিছু ঘাটতি যে হয়েছে--সে সব যে জড়ো হয়েছে তাও স্বীকার করি, কিন্তু তা সত্ত্বেও আমি বলবো--সাম্প্রদায়িকতার ফলেই ঘাটতির পরিমাণ এতটা বৃদ্ধি হয়েছে; অতএব সর্বাপেক্ষা বড় কাজ হচ্চে--সাম্প্রদায়িকতা দূর করা। সেই কাজটা যদি করা যায় তাহলে বাজেটের ঘাটতি এবারে না হলেও পরের বারে দূর হতে পারবে।

আর একটা কথা, ভারতবর্ষের প্রায় সমুদয় প্রাদেশিক শাসনেই, যারা I. C. S., I. M. S., I. P. S প্রভৃতি যে সমস্ত নিখিল ভারতীয় serviceএ রয়েছেন, তাদের পদ উঠিয়ে দেবার চেষ্টা চলেছে। কিন্তু শুধু এই বাংলা দেশই নাকি সে প্রস্তাবে রাজি নয়। সেই সব কর্ম্মচারীদের মাইনে--যেখানে আমাদের মন্ত্রীরা আড়াই হাজার টাকায় সন্তুষ্ট থাকেন সেখানে একজন I. C. S.কে দিতে হয় তিন হাজার টাকা। যদি বলেন যে বিরোধী পক্ষে যে কথা উঠছে সেটা গ্রাহ্য করা হবে না তাহলে আপনাদের পক্ষে ঠিক মনোবৃত্তির পরিচয় দেওয়া হবে না। আপনারাই বিবেচনা করে দেখুন--মন্ত্রীদের চেয়ে তাঁদের নিম্ন পদস্থ কর্ম্মচারীরা বেশী টাকা নিচ্ছেন। এ অবস্থার প্রতিকার করুন। এবং সেটা যদি করতে হয় তাহলে নিখিল ভারতীয় যে সমস্ত service তার সম্বন্ধে নূতন কার্য্যনীতি প্রবর্ত্তন করুন।

তারপর আর একটা কথা; বহুকাল ধরে আমাদের ভাবতে যে বিদেশী শাসন চলে এসেছিল এবং এখনো কিছু আছে, তার ফলে বিদেশীরা আমাদের উপর শাসনকার্য্য চালু রাখবার জন্য পুলিশ এবং আরো কতকগুলি বিভাগের সৃষ্টি করেছিল, যার জন্য কোটি কোটি টাকা বাজেটে বরাদ্দ ছিল। বর্ত্তমান নূতন পরিস্থিতিতে আমাদের সেই সমস্ত বিভাগের দরুণ খরচ কমাতে হবে। এবং সেই বিভাগ হতে টাকা যদি না কমান তাহলে প্রকৃত যে দরিদ্র জনসাধারণ, মুসলমান হোক, বা হিন্দু হোক তাদের দারিদ্র্য দূর করা যাবে না। কেউ কেউ বলেছেন যে জমিদারী প্রথা উঠিয়ে দিলেই আমাদের টাকার স্বচ্ছলতা হবে। ও দিকের কোন কোন বন্ধু উক্তি করেছেন যে হিন্দুরাই জমিদার। হিন্দুদের মধ্যে জমিদার আছেন অনেক, একথা স্বীকার্য্য। কিন্তু অর্থসচিব মহাশয় ঐ পনি সাহেবরা জলপাইগুড়ির লক্ষপতি নবাব সাহেব প্রভৃতিও তো জমিদার। জমিদার হওয়া কোন সম্প্রদায়ের বৈশিষ্ট্য নয়। এটা একটা ঐতিহাসিক development আজকে জমিদারী প্রথা উঠিয়ে দেবার কথা কংগ্রেস ইস্তাহারে রয়েছে। এবং উঠিয়ে দেবার চেষ্টাও চলেছে। বাংলা দেশে যদিও সেটা উঠাবার চেষ্টা তেমন একটা হয় নাই, কিন্তু U. P. প্রস্তাব নিয়েছে। আপনারা হয়ত জানেন যখন U. P. পরিষদে এ বিষয়ে প্রস্তাব আনা হয় তখন লীগের প্রতিনিধি যারা ছিলেন তাঁরা সকলেই উঠে এসেছিলেন। অতএব একথা সহজেই বলা চলে যে জমিদারী প্রথা বজায় রাখা যদি লীগের বৈশিষ্ট্য না হয়, তাহলে কংগ্রেসের বৈশিষ্ট্য ত নয়ই। জমিদারী প্রথা উঠিয়ে দিলে কিছু টাকা আসবে বটে কিন্তু মূল কারণ দূর না করলে টাকার স্বচ্ছলতা হবে না। তাই আবার বলি মূল কারণ যে সাম্প্রদায়িকতা সেইটা দূর করুন।

একজন বক্তা বলে গেছেন যে মুসলমান ছাত্রদের জন্য আলাদা জায়গা করতে হবে হিন্দুদের মধ্যে যদি তারা থাকে তাহলে তারা মারা যেতে পারে। যদি এই রকম দাবী এখানে আনা হয় তাহলে বহু টাকা গভর্ণমেণ্ট খরচ করে উঠ্‌তে পারবেন? তাহলে মুসলমান প্রধান জায়গায় হিন্দুর দাবী হবে তাদের জন্য আলাদা থাকার ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে আর হিন্দু প্রধান জায়গায় মুসলমানদের দাবী হবে--তাদের জন্য স্বতন্ত্র ব্যবস্থা করার তাহলে কত কোটি কোটি টাকার দরকার একবার ভেবে দেখুন। এই হচ্ছে সমস্যা। তাই মুসলীম লীগের যারা কর্ণধার তাদের কাছে নিবেদন করছি অর্থের ঘাটতি যদি নিবারণ করতে হয় তাহলে আপনাদের প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম মুসলিম লীগ নয়, "ভারতীয় লীগ" এই নাম করুন এবং তারপর এই অর্থসচিব মহাশয় যদি বহু বৎসর অর্থসচিব থাকেন এবং ক্রমাগত গ্লাডষ্টোন সাহেবের মতনও যদি থাকেন, তাহলেও আমাদের আপত্তি হবে না।

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I congratulate our much esteemed friend Mr. Mohammed Ali, the ever jolly young Finance Minister, for the extreme pains and untold troubles that he has undergone for preparing the budget which is not flawless that I intend to refer to later on.

Sir, I have heard with rapt attention the criticism levelled against the budget of the Ministry and not only that but also against the Muslim League Organisation by our Opposition friends. I have tried to follow their line of arguments and criticism, but I am sorry to say that it has appeared to me almost vacuum, with scanty rhyme and reason.

I expected there must be some substantial points, some cogent arguments and certainly some valuable suggestions and schemes would be placed before the House by the friends opposite particularly by a man of the calibre of no less than Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee whom unfortunately I do not find in the House now. But all my expectations have been falsified, as their arguments have been totally hollow and baseless,

and their criticisms have been for criticism's sake only full of reckless abuses and venoms out of comunally malicious spirit, hafred and grudge arising out of hopeless disappointment in securing powers in their hands.

Sir, for justice, equity and fairness' sake we must appreciate the beneficial and salutary measures of social services undertaken by this popular Ministry irrespective of party politics, although we do not lag behind to criticise the Ministry even severely if we find them wrong. We do not understand why our friends opposite fall short of that and only display lack of magnanimity of hearts.

Sir, I strongly refute some baseless charges made by Dr. Mookerjee and his party in their communal speeches on General Discussion on Budget. Referring to the latest announcement of the British Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee, on the transference of powers to Indian hands and to that of the areas of the Provincial Governments, Dr. Mookerjee remarked that all credit was due to the Hindus for their efforts and sacrifices! A reckless, irresponsible statement from a so-called national leader quite befitting a Hindu Mahasabhait mentality! Where was he and his forefathers of such mentality at the time of the Sepoy Mutiny, irresistible Wahabi movements and long-standing fight in the North-West Frontier Province for so many ages for which the British power, one of the first class powers in the world, had to spend more than 2/3rds of its revenue per year from the Treasury of the Central Government for so many ages? What were the sacrifices of Maulana Muhammad Ali, Shaukat Ali, Mr. Muhammad Ali Jinnah and thousands of others of the Muslim nation and Muslim League Organisations? Did they not fight for full independence? Have their sacrifices of lives, properties, money and energies all been in vain? May I ask, Sir, to whom the credit goes for the establishment of Pakistan in India in near-future? I say—to the Hindus! Because had not the Hindus mercilessly wounded the feelings of the Muslims in thousand and one ways they would not have awakened from their slumber perhaps for some centuries more!!

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. KHAIRAT HOSSAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, মাননীয় অর্থসচিবকে আমি এইজন্য ধন্যবাদ দিচ্ছি যে কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের নিকট হইতে যে ১০০ কোটি টাকা তিনি পেতে আশা করছিলেন তা না পেয়েও তিনি বাংলা সরকারের ব্যয় সঙ্কুলান করেছেন। স্যার, আমি আরও তাঁকে ধন্যবাদ জানাচ্ছি যে, তাঁর পুলিশ, General Administration ও অন্যান্য খাতে অন্য ছয় কোটি টাকা [illegible]। সে টাকার তিনি বন্দোবস্ত করেছেন অন্যান্য মন্ত্রীদের টাকা থেকে। সে সমস্ত মন্ত্রীদের কথা বোধ হয় তাঁর খেয়াল ছিল না কথা থাকলেও আমার মনে হয় মিঃ সামসুদ্দিন আহম্মদ অন্ততঃপক্ষে ৭০ লক্ষ টাকা ছেড়ে দিয়েছেন যেহেতু তিনি গণপুজির সঙ্গে নোয়াখালী ভ্রমণে ব্যস্ত ছিলেন। আমার আরও মনে হয় মাননীয় কৃষি-মন্ত্রী Mr. Ahammad Hossain কিছু টাকা ছেড়ে ছিয়েছেন কেন না তিনি গাইবান্ধায় Agriculture Institute করেই সন্তুষ্ট। আর স্যার, মাননীয় যোগেন্দ্র নাথ মণ্ডল মহাশয় Interim Governmentএ যোগ দেওয়ায় তাঁর দুই কোটি টাকা চলে গেল।

স্যার এবারকার বাজেটে মুসলমানদের জন্য কিছু টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে। সেজন্য বিরোধী দল থেকে যার আপত্তি তুলেছেন কিন্তু Anglo-Indianদের জন্য যে বেশী টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে সেজন্য এতটুকু আপত্তি করলেন না। এতেই বোঝা যাচ্ছে এ দেশের বাসিন্দা মুসলমানদের জন্য বিরুদ্ধ পক্ষের কোন সহানুভূতি নাই।

স্যার, Civil Supply Departmentএর জন্য পাঁচ কোটি টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে। এই পাঁচ কোটি টাকা দিয়া বিরাট staff পুষে black marketingএর সাহায্য করা ছাড়া আর কিছুই হবে না। তার চেয়ে সরকার যদি এই টাকা দিয়ে চাল কিনতেন তা হলে বোধ হয় ৫০ লক্ষ মণ চাল কিনতে পারতেন এবং সে চাল দিয়ে দুর্ভিক্ষ নিবারণ করতে পারতেন।

স্যার, বর্ত্তমান আইন সভায় গত বাজেট অধিবেশনে এবং এই বাজেট অধিবেশনে কোন প্রকার জনকল্যাণকর আইন পাশ হয় নাই। এইজন্য এটাকে Bengal Legislative Assembly না বলে Bengal Ordinance Assembly বলা যেতে পারে। তেভাগা আইন পাশ হবার কথা শুনে আমাদের গ্রাম দেশের চাষীরা আনন্দে উৎফুল্ল হয়েছিল কিন্তু সে আইন এখনও কেন পাশ হল না, তার কারণ জানতে পারলাম না।

Mr. HEMANTA KUMAR BASU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not like to enter into the budget discussion in detail, as previous speakers have so ably and conclusively done it. I only want to present before you the situation and the circumstances when the budget has been presented before us and to request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to recast the budget in the light of the same.

Though, somewhat difficult for me under the prevailing conditions, still please allow me to remember that this is the year of grace 1947, and that we are in the middle of the much-vaunted 20th Century, loudly advertised and widely acknowledged to be the age of equality and fraternity, when the consideration of human rights and privileges reigns supreme. We, in this far corner of the earth, have witnessed and felt the onward majestic march of human race. But situation here has also greatly changed, and in its wake there is now a Government run by Ministers who are people's representatives. But a curse seems to be there on the province of Bengal. A communal organisation is the philosopher and guide to the men at the helm of the State affairs who call themselves "popular" Ministers. As a result of their benign dispensation they carried the soul of not only one, but about 35 lakhs of Bengali Hindus and Muslims, innocent and peaceful like goats, across the frontier of the province, far beyond the borders of India, into the land from where no body ever returns. The same communal party is still in power here. As is the case each year, the budget is presented to us for the year 1947-48 in the usual official way. The budget is not only a deficit one, but is distressing, dark and gloomy. The very dangerous character of it is that it is a partisan one. The plan running throughout seems to aim to serve not even one community, but only the sections of a community. The budget has been conceived in such a manner that all other communities will be made to pay for the expenditure of a particular section of a particular country. Sir, I do not hold any brief for or against any community as such. I want social, economic, political and cultural advancement of the people of Bengal as a whole, irrespective of caste, colour and creed.

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister, who is a bright young man of culture and attainments, has presented to us a rosy picture, inasmuch as he claims the budget to be aimed for the emoluments of and to the best interests of the masses. The words are noble indeed and he thus hopes to get general approval. Sir, if you take the present situation in the country into consideration, you will find unrest and discontent rampant among the people of Bengal, particularly the poor, down-trodden millions. The price of foodstuffs and other necessaries of life has soared so high that their miseries and sufferings know no bounds. Agrarian troubles are now a common feature in a number of districts and it has assumed such an aggressive form in the district of Dinajpur that it has resulted in dozens of people being killed and mutilated by the police *lathi* and bullets. In Calcutta area the employees of almost all the mercantile firms, finding themselves into hopeless plight due to such conditions, and finding no relief coming in the immediate future, have approached their proprietors, or as such, with such minimum demands as to enable them to keep their body and soul together. You know, Sir, that the Tramway strike is now about five weeks old and still the authorities sit tight and are biding time for the half-starved workers to come down, being driven by hunger. The most important of their demands is that they want Rs. 40 to be

basic pay. Such a paltry sum in these days can meet barely the minimum necessities of a single man, not to speak of his family. Can you, Sir, say that their demand is in any way unjust or extravagant? Can you yourself do with Rs. 40?—let alone your family. The tramway workers' case is not a special one—such is the general position everywhere in Bengal. It is certainly not for pastime's sake that the workers and the employees, already half-starved and famished, go on strike and add to their sufferings as a consequence. You must, Sir, agree with me that after all other means have been attempted and exhausted in failure, those people are goaded to adopt this extreme and risky step. Sir, a European member, the other day, while commenting on the statement of the Hon'ble the Labour Minister, in connection with the tramway strike, boasted that they would support the Government in its effort to maintain law and order. May I ask, Sir, what is law, and how to keep disorder out of the way? If you look beyond the letters, words and clauses of the statute-book of law, and probe deep into its implications, you will certainly agree with me that the final sanction of law is derived from the spirit of meeting with the most basic and fundamental demands of man. Time marches on, and with it society changes, its needs and necessaries also. Law shapes itself accordingly through revolution and evolution. "The old order changeth, yielding place to new.....lest one good custom should corrupt the world".

I would like to remind the European member in this connection..... (A VOICE: None of them is present.).... Yes, I know -I wish they were. I would like to remind the European member in this connection the two glorious incidents in the proud history of his race on which solidly stands the Mother of Parliaments—the Parliament of his motherland. The incidents I refer to are the Magna Charta and the beheading of King Charles I. They represented the old, stood as stumbling blocks to the advancing new order, and the onward surge brushed them aside and marched on; and the European member has his England of today. Perhaps according to the then words and clauses of the statute-book of law in England these were ghastly crimes, but perhaps his forefathers shaped the law according to the needs of the present, and they got the sanction from the needs of the progress of human life.

Sir, if the Government of this province rides rough-shod, disregarding all considerations of people's need, robbing their life blood, it is only natural that the people behave in a way which according to "law" is regarded as illegal, but certainly not immoral, as man has the inherent right to live.

The other day, the Hon'ble the Chief Minister expressed his anxiety at the general lawlessness in the province of Bengal. I would like to impress on the Chief Minister that the remedy certainly does not lie in taking recourse to the usual stereotyped way of police *lathis* and bullets, but to drive out the causes of sufferings and starvations of the masses; otherwise he will find himself a pigmy face to face with a colossus.

Sir, Bengal has been the premier province of India commanding love and respect from far and near. Today she is a laughing stock and a liability in the body politic of India. Bengal, the land of Rabindranath, Deshabandhu Das and Netaji Subhaschandra, the land of Hazi Muhammad Mohsin and Vivekananda, the land of Abdul Rasid and Leakat Hossain, Bengal today is like the magnificent "Tajmahal" in ruins. Let us go down and search under the debris; the deathless genious of Bengal is lying there idle and obscure. The fountain spring of Bengal's life, the down-trodden masses have been most criminally neglected so long. The budget springs higher and higher each year and from Rs. 12 crores it is Rs. 46 crores this year. My previous

speakers have most conclusively shown that still the general masses are almost absent from the picture. The scheme is aimed at to benefit the already benefited section. I earnestly appeal to the Hon'ble the Chief Minister and the Hon'ble Finance Minister to remember that they are at the head of the premier province of India and, as such, Sir, I appeal to them to rise equal to their position, eschew communal and party considerations, recast the budget and go to the hungry and ignorant, ill-clad millions irrespective of caste and creed and make Bengal once more the pride of India.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I adjourn the House, I should inform the members that it has been agreed that there will be no questions on the agenda tomorrow.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 8-18 p.m. till 4-45 p.m. on Friday, the 28th February, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 28th February, 1947, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 205 Members.

Statement of Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy, the Leader of the Opposition, regarding food situation in the Province and the activities of Muslim National Guard.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is a convention in this House that on the last day of the general discussion of the budget the Leader of the Opposition is expected to speak. In spite of that I have decided, Sir, not to take any part in the general discussion. I will give the reasons why. after a fairly long public life specially in the legislature, I have come to this conclusion that you may have logic on your side, you may have sincerity on your side, you may have right on your side, you may have reason on your side, but if you have no vote, all these will be of no avail. That is one reason.

Secondly, I wanted to say whatever little I had to say in the presence of my friend the Hon'ble the Chief Minister. The Hon'ble Chief Minister being sure, very sure of the disciplined footwork of his party does not condescend to remain in the House when the general discussion takes place. It is no use making any appeal or saying anything to this Cabinet when he is absent because, without meaning any disrespect for his colleagues, it is clear to everybody that in that Cabinet he is the Fuehrer. My friend Mr. Jogendra Chandra Das, I believe yesterday, described the eminent occupiers of the Treasury benches as so many গব . (A VOICE FROM THE GOVERNMENT BENCHES: What?) If you do not know that, you are a worse গব than Mr. Das thought you to be. But the public position which I have the honour to hold through the confidence and affection of my colleagues does not allow me to express public agreement with that view, but still I know every member of this House knows and I am sure my friend Mr. Suhrawardy appreciates that in this Cabinet he counts and nobody else counts.

The points, Sir, which I wanted to mention because I wanted the Chief Minister to have an opportunity of dealing with those points in the statement which he proposes to make today.

I want to mention, first of all, the extraordinary rise in the price of rice all over the mufassal, specially in the East Bengal districts. My information is that rice is selling at Rs. 25 to Rs. 28 or Rs. 30 in the district of Dacca, in the district of Mymensingh and even in the district of Bakarganj. As a matter of fact, there is no rice in Chittagong and in other parts of East Bengal. People from the villages have already begun to arrive in the cities thinking that rice may be available in those places. There is another side of this picture. If rice is selling at Rs 28 or Rs. 25 or near about Rs. 30 in East Bengal districts, rice is selling in some of the North and West Bengal districts, I think, at Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 and curiously in the district of 24-Parganas my information is that in some of the thanas rice is selling at a very high price while in some other north and western thanas there is no buyer of rice. I do not know, Sir, how far this is correct, but, I believe, this is substantially correct and I would request the Hon'ble Chief Minister to look into this matter. This matter,

Sir, is, I submit, relevant to the subject-matter of the statement which the Hon'ble Chief Minister will make today because everybody realises that this time the people will not go without food. I am afraid this time there is not going to be passive death by starvation as in the last famine. I am using the word "famine" deliberately, though I do not want to draw an alarming picture, but what I want to say is this: This trek of the villagers to the town for food is serious and if they find that there is no food for them they are not going to die this time quietly. There is sure to be lawlessness and that is why this matter is relevant to the subject-matter of my statement.

The next thing which I want to mention is the presence of a private army in this province of Bengal—I refer to the activities of Muslim National Guard. There is public drilling going on in Calcutta and outside. Orders are given by bugle, by whistles, slogans are raised and so on in spite of the fact that in most of these places Section 144 is in force. The Muslim National Guards are, I maintain, a menace to the peace and tranquility of this province. Now I invite the attention of the Hon'ble Chief Minister to this menace. How is he going to deal with the Muslim National Guard? Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know the difficulties of my honourable friend. Having raised himself to power by rousing communal passion, it is now difficult for him to control his own followers, and then there is Mr. Fazlul Huq in the field. So the challenge is very grave, but so far as we are concerned, Sir, we are disinterested spectators of this fight for leadership. If I may be permitted to say, we find ourselves between the devil and the deep sea.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot use the word "devil".

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Certainly he has no right to refer us as "devil".

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: All right, Sir, if he does not like it I will not use it.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: He is setting a dangerous standard.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMAD: The standard may be followed.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: It is no use speaking of standard specially not my friend Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmad.

Any way, Sir, his difficulties are great. I hope, Sir, he will deal with these matters in his statement which will give an assurance not only to all sections of the House but also to the public outside whose servants I and my friends claim to be. (Applause from Congress benches.)

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Only one per cent. to clap your Leader!

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, although the honourable Leader of the Opposition had given me an indication of the subject-matter of his speech today, I had no idea that he intended to be so controversial, if not to use a stronger term, and therefore I considered it sufficient if I were to make a purely objective statement before the House. Sir, I shall still abide by my intention and will not be thrown into vituperative calumny.

The first point raised by him was food situation. Sir, Government are fully aware of the high prices that are prevailing in certain parts of East Bengal and in some of its deficit areas, although the position is not so bad as my honourable friend has put it to be. We are keeping a very careful watch on the situation. There is actually no cause for anxiety, as the crop

this year has been fairly satisfactory not only in Bengal but in other parts of India and also the crop position is much better than last year. We can confidently expect to receive the normal quota of wheat and rice from other parts of India and from Food Organisation, which is warranted by our requirements. Although the crop situation is good an artificial shortage is being created in some places due to a wholly unwarranted fear of scarcity and a frantic urge to hoard—a fear which is hardly allayed by reference to word like "famine". Last year the Leader of the Opposition, no doubt at the behest of his party and in an attempt to make a political capital out of food situation, did sound tocsin, and predicted famine in some quarters, as he is doing now. (MR. MANORANJAN DHAR: Many people died last year.) I hope, Sir, that his predictions will be as falsified this year as they were last year. Last year indeed the situation might well have been grave, had it not been that Government sent stocks in liberal quantities to all deficit areas, with the result that our stock in the godown at the beginning of this year was at the low side. This seems to have created a panic which is unjustifiable, absolutely unjustifiable. Government has taken over the entire procurement in its own hand, and the procurement, I am happy to say today, which I could not have said a few days ago, is proceeding very satisfactorily even beyond our expectations in spite of certain initial difficulties due to the changing over from chief agents to Government procurement. Prices in surplus areas are well within our purchasing price, and there are considerable stocks awaiting procurement and removal which are ample to meet the situation. The rising prices in deficit areas are due to various factors again such as the agriculturists having a better hoarding power, a desire to hoard stocks against possible rise of price in future, and shortage is also due to increased purchasing power of agriculturists in the jute growing areas owing to the high price obtained by them for jute. In a few surplus areas prices have risen owing to rapid smuggling which is being counteracted by tightening of cordons and restriction of foodgrains licences. The higher prices in the adjacent province of Bihar have also led to stocks crossing over to Bihar, and steps are being taken to prevent smuggling across the border to Bihar. Government consider that there is no justification for any fear of shortage or of inability of Government to supply foodgrains to the deficit areas, and there is no justification for panic for hoarding. I want to make it clear that we are alive to the situation. Not only do we propose to send foodgrains to the deficit areas for the purpose of bringing down prices and starting our schemes of modified rationing process which has already begun, but we propose to take steps to prevent hoarding. In this Government hope that all sections of the people will co-operate. This is not the matter which concerns any individual or section or class or community: this is a matter in which every single person has a duty to perform, and the persons indulging in anti-social activities must be definitely brought to book. In order to prevent hoarding it may be necessary for us to keep a careful watch on the returns of stocks and to take stringent measures where returns are not made or false returns are made. As I have already said before, I hope we shall be able to have the co-operation of the non-officials in dealing with the situation. I reiterate there is no cause whatsoever for panic; our foodgrains ought to be sufficient to tide over this; and the plan that is being pursued by Government is taking a satisfactory shape; our control is well up to the mark, and I see no cause for apprehension. We have already started sending foodgrains to the deficit areas. This operation will go on increasing in volume. I confidently expect that prices will fall in deficit areas and that social conscience will not tolerate disorder and will still bring them to part with their hoarding, and all sections of the public will co-operate with us in allaying the panic.

Sir, the second point raised by my honourable friend was with regard to the Muslim National Guards which possibly he has referred to, taking advantage of the present discussion, but of which he did not give any notice.

So I repudiate the insinuation that the Muslim National Guard is a private army. They are nothing of the kind. They are an organisation undoubtedly of Muslim young men attached to the Muslim League the objective of which is at the present moment service to the community and social services. They have rendered invaluable aid in the matter of relief and I hope they will continue to do so. There is no intention, as I have said, of raising a private army. When a private army will be raised it will be done quite openly by the Muslim League and it will not be necessary for it to resort to any secretive methods.

Now, Sir, there was a further point on which I stated I would make a statement, arising out of the motion of a member of the Congress a few days back concerning the recent firing by the police at Tunia in Beliadingi P. S., in Thakurgaon subdivision. On that issue I promised to make a statement in this House not only regarding this incident but generally because I think that the House should know and should be apprised of certain specific instances of the unfortunate occurrences within the province. I fear, Sir, that this incident was a natural result of the lawlessness which is being sedulously propagated by agitators, and in order to apprise this incident one must be somewhat conversant of the background.

Owing to the activities, Sir, of such agitators there is not merely a general wave of unrest but of lawlessness and defiance of authority. This has found expression in labour strikes where the normal and legal machinery of conciliation and adjudication set up by Government and hitherto recognised as the proper procedure has been thrown overboard. The unrest has also spread amongst the cultivators, fortunately in a few restricted areas, where it has taken the form of *Tebhaga* movement, in others, of non-payment of *tanka* rent and in still others of catching fish without authorisation from *beels* or non-payment of chowkidari tax and of agricultural loans. In some places such agitation is unfortunately accompanied with violence. Persons have been advised to resist arrest in spite of warrants legally issued by a court of law and to rescue persons arrested and to attack the police if necessary, to intimidate others into accepting their demand, to remove crops by force from the *beels* and sometimes from the house of jotedars. Parallel trial courts have been set up and persons are brought under confinement and are convicted for opposing the movement. Personal indignities are inflicted and punishment awarded. Lands are being cultivated by force, in some cases side by side with the jotedars. Committees of Action, Volunteer Corps, propaganda leaflets, secret shelters have been organised. Badges and *lathis* have been issued and the volunteers are taught to drill and parade. No Government, Sir, however sympathetic it may be towards the reasonable demands of the people can allow lawlessness and defiance of authority to nullify it. It is a matter of the greatest regret to Government that innocent and law-abiding cultivators have fallen a prey to this agitation and have resorted to such steps as made it incumbent on our forces of law and order to use force against force. I cite some examples to bring home to this House the manner and method of this agitation. Fortunately, as I have stated, it is confined only to a few areas of Dinajpur, Mymensingh and Jalpaiguri, although some slight rumblings can be heard elsewhere.

Between the 7th and the 17th of February, 14 cases of paddy looting were reported in two unions of Balurghat thana. I am not referring to the flood of telegrams which have been pouring in from these areas complaining of looting from the houses of various *jotedars*, I am referring to those which have been investigated. This looting which has been done more or less on a mass scale was a result of constant propaganda inculcating a spirit of defiance and lawlessness. On the 16th of February warrants of arrest legally issued by a Court of Law could be executed only against three persons. Further arrests were made impossible without the interposition of an armed force. Indeed, it was with difficulty that the police could extricate themselves with those arrested three persons without resorting to

violence. On the 20th of February, a police party with armed force went to Khanpur—I am referring to the subdivision of Balurghat, indeed the thana of Balurghat. There they were able to arrest six persons. An alarm was sounded by the villagers by the beating of *nagra* or a drum and people began to collect from the neighbouring villages in large numbers. They were armed with bows, arrows, spears, *lathis*, axes, *farshas*, *surpis*, *cochas*, *daos* and other instruments of assault. They surrounded the police party on three sides. They were warned to keep aloof and then the Officer in charge went ahead with an armed force in a truck which was followed by a bus with the arrested persons and an unarmed force and then followed by a truck with armed police—when I am using the expression armed force I am referring to armed police throughout,. there was no military. At the bend of the road, the truck was assaulted by 500 persons armed with these various instruments of assault. A ditch had been cut right in the middle of the road and the truck fell into it; the tyres were cut and the truck was damaged. The police party were then assaulted with bows and arrows and they had to fire. A certain number of persons were unfortunately killed. (MR. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: How many were killed there?) 83 arrows, 6 bows, 2 axes, 1 *farsha*, 3 *surpis* which are spears, 3 *cochas*, 2 spades, 28 *lathis* and 1 Red Flag were taken possession of. Then other villagers were called to the scene by means of *nagras*. The police party in order to avoid a further collection of villagers in front had to make a detour on their way to Balurghat. Of the police party seven persons were wounded with arrows and one is in a dangerous condition and was operated on twice. A number of persons, as I have said, unfortunately met their death. That was due to the fact that the firing was maintained for a considerable time and the villagers retired behind low walls. As many as 121 rounds were fired. 14 persons met their death on the spot and ultimately 6 persons expired later on. (MR. RADHANATH DAS: How many policemen were killed?) It is extremely unfortunate that, as I have said before, innocent villagers, most of them Santals and aboriginals, should have been made a prey to this agitation and should have been set against the police and the forces of law and order. The agitators were nowhere to be found. They have pushed these poor innocent people everywhere and they decamped. The search warrants cannot be executed because they are lurking somewhere in the background and have made themselves scarce. Instead of deploring the death of these unfortunate people I regret that the honourable members opposite desire to set off the death on one side against the death on the other.

This took place on the 20th. The District Magistrate and the Civil Surgeon arrived on the spot on the 21st with medical aid and gave medical aid to all persons who had been wounded. On the 21st of February, the day following, occurred the incident at Tunia. A Circle Inspector of Police accompanied with an armed force consisting of a head constable and 16 constables went to Tunia for the purpose of executing a search warrant and warrants of arrests. This will further bring home to the honourable members the propaganda that has been carried on to resist the arrests and to assault the Police. 8 search warrants were taken and there could be no mistake about it as the members of the Police party were in full uniform. As soon as the Police reached Tunia village the local people who, we can well see, have been trained and taught in this art, sounded the alarm by striking symbols, etc., and people began to converge on the house of one Domar Singh against whom a warrant of arrest was about to be executed. At about 7-30 a.m. when the Police party reached the house of Domar Singh they found a mob of 500 to 600 people assembled at the spot. Two persons who are described here as communist leaders—I will not name them here, Sir, because this will undoubtedly form the subject-matter of judicial proceedings—they ordered the people to attack the Police and to drive them away. Thereupon 600 people advanced towards the Police party armed with bows and arrows and spears, *lathis*, husking rods, burning jute-sticks, *masals*

shouting "*mar, mar*". The Circle Inspector kept the armed force at a reasonable distance with the officer-in-charge, and himself with his orderly constable, one other constable and three other witnesses advanced towards the mob warning them not to proceed. The mob, however, continued to advance. The Circle Inspector thereupon declared the assembly unlawful, and advancing again with the Officer-in-charge and two constables ordered them to disperse. Some members of the mob then attacked the Police party and one of them dealt a *lathi* blow aimed at the head of the Circle Inspector which was warded off by his orderly. Other members of the mob began to belabour the orderly and other constables and the search witnesses. An arrow was shot by the members of the mob which pierced the helmet of the Officer-in-charge. The Circle Inspector then fell back and ordered the armed force to load. Up till that time he did not pass orders to load. He then gave final warning that fire would be opened if the mob did not disperse. The mob became still more furious and closed in behind the Police party. The Circle Inspector ordered half the force to open fire and accordingly 7 constables fired 16 rounds killing 2 persons. Two other persons subsequently died. The orderly constable of the Circle Inspector was severely injured with *lathi* blows and one other constable and one search witness were also injured by the mob. In both these two cases a magisterial enquiry is being held in accordance with the rules.

Sir, I do not think that the story can be completed unless I refer to the incidents at Mymensingh. Here again unfortunately the agitators have chosen the simple Hajang tribes. They found the simple folk hitherto law-abiding an easy prey to their propaganda. I would like to remind the House that this *tanka* question was taken up by the previous Ministry of which I had the honour to be a member. Enquiries were made under Section 112 and the paddy rent was reduced. The agitation in regard to this was really originated by the Garos who conducted it in a lawful and constitutional manner. Government took notice of it and instituted enquiries. Since then the Garos and others had been paying rent in accordance with the orders then passed which were readily accepted by them. But on this occasion one section—again an agitating group—had started to get hold of the Hajangs whom, as I have said, they found prey to their agitation. Honourable members on the other side may remember that in the election of March, 1946, three Congressmen were attacked by the local communists of whom one was a Hajang communist. One of these Congressmen succumbed to his injury. On the 21st January a large number of Hajangs attacked the muharrir of Susang when he was bringing home paddy which he collected from the Garos. He extricated himself with difficulty from the place. 14 Hajangs were arrested, although a clash was averted as 2,000 Hajangs well-armed came to the scene. On the 22nd January 4,000 Hajangs trespassed into the compound of the Durgapur Thana. On the 26th January as many as 10,000 of them trespassed into the compound. They broke the fencing, damaged the telegraph wire and set fire to postal documents. On the 30th January a meeting was held amongst them when it was decided to resist the Police. On the 31st January occurred two incidents, again unfortunate, at Baharkhali. There were warrants of arrest that had to be executed. When the police party arrived there they were chased with bows and arrows, spears, brickbats and *lathis*. Two armed constables were speared to death and their bodies were recovered the next day. Two police rifles were stolen. Side by side the honourable members will remember that there were incidents and demonstrations on the 24th November which had nothing whatsoever to do with Hajang unrest—demonstration against His Excellency the Governor on the 21st January as a protest against what transpired here as Viet Nam Day. Processions were taken out, the Court of the Additional District Magistrate was invaded, several Government buildings were set fire to and looted—possibly the honourable members do not know that as many as twenty buildings were burnt.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Where?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: In Mymensingh. This is what is taking place. I thought that before the honourable members speak lightly of incidents here and there, they should know what we were up against, and how imperative it was that Government should bring such forces of disorder under control. I need not refer to anything more except to inform the House that Government are taking steps. We have a considerable amount of armed force in that area and steps are being taken to arrest those persons who are really responsible for this tremendous wave of lawlessness. As I have said before in connection with Dinajpur these persons have disappeared putting the Hajangs to bear the brunt of assault. Searches which have been made have revealed the extent to which they have been influenced. Communist leaflets have been discovered in remotest villages. At Bahertali large stocks of *tanka* paddy and a large number of spears, *lathis* and other weapons—some of them freshly cut and made, were discovered. Raid in some villages also led to the discovery of fresh cut bows and arrows which resulted in the arrest of leaders. Documents relating to the extermination of *mahajans* have been seized. As soon as the headquarters of the agitators are searched the parties leave their villages and take to hills, and many of the leading agitators have taken shelter in the Garo hills. On the 5th, I believe, of February, a march of armed Hajangs was being made at Nalitabari police-station. Fortunately there was an aeroplane doing reconnoissance work and when it dived towards the crowd the people crossed the river and held a meeting there. Of course, nothing happened there, but this did not prevent some from sending frantic telegrams that we have resorted to aerial bombing. There was a little bit of things thrown from the air. The District Magistrate had thought it advisable to throw some propaganda leaflets which are having their effect, because now with these searches persons who had been intimidated are coming forward and giving evidence of how they have been threatened, how they have been forced to become Communist and forced to accept the demands of these people, how they have been carried away and tried in parallel courts of law and punishments that had been inflicted upon them. The reports indicate that these Communists are still active in the thanas of Kamlakanda, Durgapur and Nalitabari and trying to stir up agitation in Sherpur in Jamalpur subdivision. Only one section of the Hajangs is giving trouble; the other sections of Garo and Muslim areas are not giving any trouble. I do not think it is necessary for me to place other factors before the House. Some reports have been received from Jalpaiguri which we are investigating and from a few other thanas scattered here and there.

I am glad that I have had this opportunity of placing before this House what is taking place outside, and before I sit down I would appeal to all the members of the House, to those on this side as well as to the Opposition, not to take this lightly but to use all their influence and all their organisation in upholding order and discipline, and in counteracting this wave of lawlessness and defiance of authority which is being practised by one section with the objective of paralysing Government. We are undoubtedly on the verge of independence and it is essential that we must prepare ourselves for it.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: As you are doing at Noakhali!

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Don't forget Bihar.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: You started this lawlessness.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: This lawlessness will not do, and when independence comes and we shall be called upon to undertake with the fullest responsibility the welfare of our motherland, and I hope in this all of us will combine together, we shall, if we do not suppress this wave of

lawlessness now, have to deal with it far more sternly than at present. While, therefore, there is time, I do urge of the members here to use their influence to see that we proceed legally and constitutionally along the path of independence so that we may be in a position to reap its fruits.

Mr. RUP NARAYAN ROY: গতরাত্রে আমি দিনাজপুর-বালুরঘাট থেকে আসছি।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not allow any speech after the statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

(The House was then adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Adjournment Motion.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I crave your indulgence to call your attention to a very grave matter on which we propose to give notice of a motion to move adjournment of the House. Sir, the Hon'ble Minister in charge of law and order has on the floor of the House given a direct incitement and threat and encouraged that a certain organisation to which he also belongs, called the Muslim League, will raise a private army. That is a serious enough matter and it ought to be discussed. We propose to give notice of an adjournment motion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar, if you want to give notice of an adjournment motion, you can do so. That will be considered.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Yes, Sir. I only called your attention to it because in your presence on the floor of this House the Chief Minister did it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Provas Chandra Lahiri.

General discussion of the Budget.

Mr. PROVAS CHANDRA LAHIRY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, এই পরিষদকক্ষে মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয় যে বাজেট উপস্থিত করেছেন সেজন্য তাঁকে ধন্যবাদ দিতে পারলে আমি সুখী হতাম কিন্তু অত্যন্ত দুঃখের সঙ্গে আমাকে জানাতে হচ্ছে যে ব্যক্তিগতভাবে তাঁর গুণাবলীর আমি যথেষ্ট প্রশংসা করলেও তিনি যে বাজেট আমাদের সামনে উপস্থিত করেছেন সে বাজেটের প্রশংসা করতে পারছি না। তিনি যে বাজেট উপস্থিত করেছেন সে বাজেট দেউলে বাজেট অর্থাৎ বাংলাদেশের জনসাধারণকে তিনি দেউলিয়া খতে নাম লেখাতে বাধ্য করেছেন। আজ যে শিশু প্রথম ভূমিষ্ঠ হয়েছে সেও এই দেউলে খাতাতে নাম লেখাতে বাধ্য হয়েছে এবং তার মাথার উপর ঋণের বোঝা নিয়েই সে জন্মগ্রহণ করছে। এই বাজেট সত্য সত্যই বাংলার জনগণের বাজেট হয় নাই, হয়েছে সহরের বাজেট বা একটা রাজনৈতিক দলের বাজেট। বাজেটের প্রতি ছত্রে ছত্রে ফুটে উঠেছে রাজকর্মচারীদের অযোগ্যতা, দুর্নীতি, দুর্ব্যবহার এবং অন্যায় কার্য্যকলাপ। বেশী দূরে যাওয়া দরকার করে না, বাজেট আলোচনা করাও প্রয়োজন করে না, জনসাধারণ শুধু Civil Supply বিভাগের কার্য্যকলাপ দেখলেই বুঝতে পারবে। এই বিভাগের নাম দেওয়া হয়েছে Civil Supply বিভাগ, কিন্তু আমার মনে হয় যত criminal সব এর ভিতর অন্তর্ভুক্ত হয়েছে তার প্রমাণ যাঁরা কলিকাতা শহরে বেশনের চাউল খান তাঁরা ভালই জানেন। বোধ হয় এই কয়েক বৎসরে Civil Supply বিভাগের কৃপায় হিমালয় পাহাড়ের অনেকখানি অংশ আমাদের পেটের ভিতর ঢুকে গিয়েছে। কিছুক্ষণ আগে এই পরিষদকক্ষে বিরোধী দলের নেতা একটা statement দিয়েছিলেন, তাতে বাংলার স্থানে স্থানে চাউলের অভাবের কথাই তিনি বলেছিলেন। তার প্রতি-উত্তরে Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy বলেছিলেন চাউলের কোন অভাব নেই এবং কোন ভাবনাও নেই। আমি এখন তার প্রতিবাদ করছি। আজকে আমি একখানি registered চিঠি পেয়েছি। সেই চিঠি থেকে অংশ বিশেষ পড়ে শুনালে আপনারা বুঝতে পারবেন স্থানে ধান-চাউলের একান্ত অভাব দেখা দিয়েছে এবং মূল্যও অস্বাভাবিক রকম বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে। "বর্ত্তমানে চাউলের মূল্য প্রতিমণ ১৮৲ টাকা (কাঁচি)। প্রত্যহ চাউলের মূল্য বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে। এই রকমভাবে বৃদ্ধি পেতে থাকলে শীঘ্র চাউলের দাম ৩০।৪০৲ টাকায় উঠবে।....থানার বাহির হতে চাউল আমদানী হতে পারছে না এবং আমদানী না হওয়ার জন্য ঐ অঞ্চলে

চাউলের দাম বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে। পরশপরে শোনা যাচ্ছে যে, রাজসাহীর তালইমারীতে পুলিশ কর্তৃক চাউলের গাড়ী বাধা দেওয়া হ'চ্ছে। আমরা স্পষ্ট বুঝতে পারছি ধান-চাউল আমদানী করতে না পারলে ব্যাপক দুর্ভিক্ষ দেখা দিবে।" এই দরখাস্তে এইভাবে বহু লোকের স্বাক্ষর আছে এবং হিন্দু মুসলমান বহু লোক এর মধ্যে আছে। মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহাশয় Procurementএর প্রশংসা করে যাচ্ছেন কিন্তু মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের এ জ্ঞান নাই যে, surplus area হতে অতিরিক্ত উৎপন্ন চাউল deficit areaএ না আনতে পারলে সেখানে দুর্ভিক্ষ অবশ্যম্ভাবী। একটা অতিরিক্ত উৎপাদন জেলার মধ্যেও যে ঘাটতি থানা থাকে এ জ্ঞানও মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের নাই। বাজারে ধান-চাউল আমদানী হলে জবরদস্তি সরকার কণ্ট্রোল দামে সব কিনে নিচ্ছে। আজ এই রকম থানায় থানায় ধান-চাউল জবরদস্তি করে কিনে নেওয়া হচ্ছে কিন্তু বাজারে কিনতে গেলে control দরে পাওয়া যাচ্ছে না।

Civil Supply বিভাগের আর একটি রূপ হল সরকারের নৌকা বিলাস। তা আজ কারো কাছে অজানা নাই। সরকার যে নৌকাবিলাস করেছেন তাতে তিন কোটি টাকা খরচ হয়ে গেছে। রাজসাহী শহরেও একটি নৌকাকেন্দ্র আছে। সেখানে প্রায় ৮ শত নৌকা আছে এবং ১৬ শত লোক (মাঝিমাল্লা) আছে। ১৬ শত লোক থাকা সত্ত্বেও কি জলের উপর কিছুদিন আগে ৭০ খানি নৌকা পুড়ে গেল? এক সঙ্গে ৭০ খানি নৌকা পুড়ে গেল। অন্য কোন স্বাধীন দেশ হলে নৌকার আগুন মন্ত্রীদের কপালে লাগতো, কিন্তু এখানে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর কপালে সে আগুন লাগলো না। তাঁরা majorityর জোরে সাম্প্রদায়িক নীতি নিয়ে শাসন চালিয়ে যাচ্ছেন। সে জন্যই মন্ত্রীরা আজও মন্ত্রীর গদিতে সমাসীন আছেন।

আমাদের দেশ ম্যালেরিয়াপ্রধান কিন্তু সিনকোনা চাষের জন্য যে টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছিল তা হতেও ছয় হাজার টাকা কম খরচ করা হয়েছে, বাড়ান ত দূরের কথা। সিনকোনার চাষ কমান হয়েছে এদেশের জনসাধারণের স্বার্থের জন্য না বিদেশী বণিকদের স্বার্থের জন্য?

যদিও বলা হচ্ছে এটা সাম্প্রদায়িক বাজেট আমি একে সাম্প্রদায়িক বাজেট বলি না। আমি বলি এটা একটা দলীয় বাজেট মাত্র, কেন না এতে সমগ্র মুসলমান সম্প্রদায়ের কোন উপকার হবে না।

Mr. J. R. WALKER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has had the unhappy task of presenting the 9th deficit budget in the years following the Niemeyer Award. This is not, therefore, an occasion for congratulations, but we may admit that he has not flinched from his task although we may feel that there are remarkable omissions from his budget statement. The process of presenting deficit budgets year after year is a demoralising one. It inevitably leads to irresponsibility both on the part of the Finance Department and on the part of the honourable members of this legislature. There are signs of this tendency in these estimates.

Mr. Methold has already voiced our misgivings with regard to the heavy expenditure under the heads "Extraordinary Charges in India", "Miscellaneous" and "Famine". Is it a sign of demoralisation that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has not presented us with a picture of our debts and assets position? Surely, we, members of this House, are entitled to this.

I would like to make two suggestions the adoption of which would, in my opinion, help to combat the tendency towards financial irresponsibility. The first is that the Hon'ble Finance Minister should immediately appoint a Finance Standing Committee composed of representatives of the various parties in this House. This Standing Committee would meet at regular intervals to review the progress of expenditure, and to consider any proposals for new expenditure, but I would suggest, Sir, that its first task should be to examine the case for financial assistance from the Centre. If the Standing Committee can agree on Bengal's case for financial assistance, then I would suggest that the Committee should go to Delhi to present a united demand to the Government of India for financial assistance.

My second suggestion is an old one, but it is an important one in the light of our mounting expenditure. It is that supplementary estimates should be presented in this House immediately additional expenditure is contemplated. The Finance Department have not at any time appeared to appreciate the necessity and importance of doing this, and I would like to suggest that their negligence in this respect contributes very substantially to an attitude of financial irresponsibility. There will be additional expenditure this year

—additional expenditure on Government employees and I hope after hearing the Chief Minister this evening on Police. Will the Hon'ble Minister give an undertaking that supplementary estimates for this additional expenditure will be presented in the Monsoon Session?

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has budgeted for an improvement of nearly 3½ crores in our revenue receipts for the coming year on the assumption that normal conditions of trade and business will prevail. We would wish that the Hon'ble Finance Minister had gone more fully into implications of this assumption. Normal conditions depend upon the maintenance of peace and order in this province and upon the absence of factors disturbing its economic life such as repeated labour strikes. In present circumstances they depend also to a large extent upon control of inflationary tendencies.

So far as law and order is concerned, the estimates are not reassuring. We remember that the Chief Minister in reply to the No-Confidence Debate in September last stated that very considerable additional expenditure on police would be necessary. Tonight the Chief Minister has unfurled a story of lawlessness throughout the province, and we have also noticed the published evidence of the Commissioner of Police in which he constantly stresses the inadequacy of his resources. In the context of the very serious disturbances which occurred during the past year and in the context of the many reports of outbreaks of violence and disorder in different parts of the province, we would have expected to see substantial new proposals for expenditure on Police. But all that we find is that an additional sum of Rs. 8 lakhs was spent during the current year, and during the coming year the only additional expenditure is Rs. 4 lakhs under the Development programme. The The increase in the total estimate is due only to the fact that Government have not been able to recover the anticipated contribution from the Government of India towards expenditure sanctioned before the disturbances occurred. Will the Hon'ble Finance Minister please explain whether there are any new proposals for additional expenditure on Police, and what are their financial implications?

I had also expected that the Hon'ble Finance Minister would deal with the problem of inflation. He will admit presumably that inflation is occurring, and if so then I think he should explain Government's policy for combating inflation. The result of inflation, as everyone must know, is that wage increases are discounted by rising prices, and so long as prices continue to rise there will be no end to labour agitation and to the repeated strikes which are dislocating the industrial economy of this province.

Sir, there is a point which you tried to make to the Chief Minister this evening but I do not think he adequately dealt with it, and I hope the Hon'ble Finance Minister will deal with that question of inflated prices and the question of how they are going to deal with it; otherwise strikes and disorder must continue.

Government can do a great deal to combat inflation. They can control the price of rice. They failed to do so in 1946, and after listening to the Chief Minister this evening I am not assured that they are going to be able to control it in 1947. Government can also control rents—another fundamental item, but they will not do so and have not done so with a part-time Rent Controller and a part-time staff. I would suggest that Government should take immediate steps to appoint two full-time senior officers to take charge of rent control with adequate staff.

Government can also ensure that labour should receive a food ration adequate in quantity and, in particular, in quality, but they did not do so in 1946, and this year, as far as we can see, the position is rapidly deteriorating. Government can also use their influence in procuring an adequate supply of essential consumer goods and can see that these supplies are properly distributed throughout the province. Lastly, Government can see

that their Labour Department is properly equipped, and that, in particular, it has an adequate staff of high calibre labour officers and conciliators who will be able to take up the task of settling labour disputes before they reach the stage of strikes.

There has been a criticism that this is a communal budget. We do not agree with this criticism. The deficits are the result of extraordinary expenditure for the benefits of both the major communities. We welcome, and we are sure that every reasonable member will join with us, the small additional amounts provided for Muslim and Scheduled Caste education nor do we agree the policy of the Government is not directed towards the benefit of the masses of this province. We think, on the other hand, that Government's policy has a definite bias in that direction, and particularly in the direction of the masses in rural areas. We have no quarrel with that policy except in so far as it tends to defeat its own ends as in the question of jute restriction.

There is, however, a danger in the legislative field, and this policy in so far as it affects one community more than another community may tend to lead to communal strife and discord. The Finance Minister has referred to the scheme for liquidation of the Permanent Settlement and has estimated the total cost of the scheme at close upon 82 crores. I would only suggest that if fair compensation is to be paid, and in our opinion fair compensation must be paid, the total cost would be considerably more than 82 crores. I wonder why Government always seem to ignore Mr. Gurner's report on the recommendations of the Floud Commission. Mr. Gurner pointed out that the estimates of the Floud Commission were of little value because they were incomplete in certain respects and he expressed the view that the prospects of profit out of the transactions were illusory. The Revenue Department calculated the cost of the omitted items and according to their estimate on the basis of compensation at ten times the net income there would be an annual loss to the state of 60 lakhs. I hasten to state that we do not consider ten times as fair compensation, and Mr. Gurner himself expressed the view very strongly that if substantial injustice was not to be done, the rate could not be lower than fifteen times. I have dwelt on this important point because it seems to us that in a legislation which is likely to affect adversely one community more than another community, it is particularly incumbent upon the Government to be just and fair if communal strife is to be avoided. We have seen with pleasure the statement of Mr. Jinnah that the minorities to whichever community they may belong will be treated fairly and justly and that every effort will be made by the majority community to create in them a sense of security and confidence. We would like to suggest to the Government that in their legislative proposals this praiseworthy statement should always be kept in view. In this connection I do not only refer to legislation for state acquisition of the rent-receiving interest but also refer to legislations with regard to the *baraadars* and acquisition of waste lands. It is disappointing that Government have not been able to fulfil their development programme during the current year. Mr. Methold has voiced our particular disappointment with regard to the lack of achievement as regards roads programme. We consider, Sir, that the construction and improvement of roads are of vital importance in the development of this province, and in raising the standard of living of the masses. The grants made available to us by the Centre are at the same time a great opportunity and a challenge. That opportunity may not continue indefinitely and it is up to us to see that the grants do not lapse through any fault of our own.

I would like to suggest that the Government should take the public more into confidence with regard to the development programme with a view to enlist public opinion in support of the schemes. As a first step I would suggest that a revised development programme which is now nearly in the

final shape should be placed before this legislature and the public as soon as possible. As a second step I would suggest that as recommended by the Rowlands Committee, Advisory Bodies composed of experts and public representatives should be set up in headquarters and the districts, and I feel, Sir, public interest and public support of the development programme would be of value.

In conclusion, Sir, while I have offered criticism and made certain suggestions which, I hope, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister will treat seriously, we had appreciated the magnitude of the task and the many unprecedented problems which this Ministry has had to face. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister has appealed for a united assault upon the many vital problems facing this province. I can assure him of our co-operation in this matter, and I only hope that he will take steps to set up a machinery by means of which all sections of the House can co-operate in the manner I have suggested.

Mr. SATISH CHANDRA BOSE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it must have gladdened the heart of our juvenile Finance Minister to find him described as the youngest amongst the Finance Ministers in India. We whose hair has turned grey are not jealous of his youth. But youth has its perils and pitfalls. We have before us a budget, the product of a youthful brain, full of perils, which has plunged this province into a financial abysss. Sir, we have heard of pious platitudes and great hopes for the future, but they will have no meaning until the communal virus in the body politic of Bengal is eradicated. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister has said in his budget statement about the fall in revenue from various sources. We find that expenditure on famine victims and for relief and rehabilitation purposes has run into two crores and odd. All these expenses could have been avoided if the party in power has realised in time that killing as part of a party programme would never pay. Then again we find there is a fall in excise revenue from country liquor and such other things. We are not very much concerned about the fall in revenue from country liquor. Whether it is swadeshi champagne or imported champagne. We are absolutely unconcerned. There ought to have been prohibition ere long and therefore we are not concerned about the fall in revenue from country liquor.

Now, about the illusive boat construction programme. We hear there is a loss of 3 crores on that. On the last occasion I requested the Hon'ble Finance Minister to make an enquiry into this matter but up till now we do not know who these highly placed persons and officers are who made tons of money. They have successfully evaded the law and avoided prosecution. This reminds me of the saying of the poet that law grinds the poor, the rich rule the law.

I will now confine my observation to the educational policy of Government. It has been observed by the Hon'ble Mr. Abul Kalam Azad that education should receive the highest priority in our national budget, for one of the major problems of national reconstruction, is education. Now about a word or two on the educational policy of Government. The educational policy should have in view, removal of ignorance and mass enlightenment. Just as the blessings of the sun are received by one and all, the high and the low, every one, no matter to which community he belongs, rich or poor, high or low, should receive the blessings of education.

Now, we find that the scheme for encouragement of Post-Graduate Research in Calcutta by expanding the University College of Science was abandoned. Why? No money could be lost on scientific research and this item of expenditure on scientific research should have been sanctioned by the Government. The educational policy of the Government should have been conceived in the broadest possible terms. We find to our infinite regret that communal canker has entered the whilom healthy educational system of Bengal. The fountain of knowledge is being poisoned at its source with

this policy of communalising education. We fear that if this process goes on there will be greater Calcutta killing and greater Noakhali killing because if the communal mind is further communalised by a process of education which is not broadbased on the general culture of the people, such education is potent for infinite mischief to the people. Altough obscurantism in the matter of education is bad enough, communalism in the sphere of education is worse. Educational separatism is a thing to be deplored and no one deplores more than this side of the House that education should have been divided into separate communal compartments.

We have before us some additional grants; Hindus got 3½ lakhs and the great Buddhist community got only 16 thousand, a beggarly educational grant for the great community of Buddhists in Bengal. Favours bestowed on any particular community in the sphere of education are bad investments. You will see the result of it in a very short time. It may be greater Calcutta Killings and greater Noakhali Killings and this system of dividing education into separate communal compartments is a thing which should be deprecated. The whole system of education requires thorough overhauling, a much larger grant should be made to the private colleges, to the aided colleges and to the University of Calcutta and I am sure that in the next budget a better grant, a more liberal grant should be made towards education in Bengal—for general education, not compartmental education, not communal education, not one-sided education but education should be as broad and general as air and light.

(The member having reached the time limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY : মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, এবারের বাজেটে অর্থনৈতিক ব্যবস্থার চেয়ে রাজনৈতিক ব্যবস্থার প্রাধান্যই বেশী ফুটে উঠেছে। সুতরাং এবারকার এ বাজেটকে রাজনৈতিক বাজেট আখ্যা দেওয়াই সমীচীন, এবং আমার আলোচনার দৃষ্টিভঙ্গীও হবে সেই কোণ থেকে।

বাজেট বরাদ্দের বিভিন্ন খাতে বিবিধ বাজারে বেচা-কেনা বেশ চালু আছে। তারমধ্যে দুটী প্রধান। একটী হলো—লালবাজার পুলিশ ; আর একটী—কালবাজার। বাজেট নিয়ে গত কয়দিন ধরে আলোচনা চলেছে। বিভিন্ন ব্যয়-বরাদ্দের খাতে কোটি কোটি টাকার অঙ্কের সংখ্যা নিয়ে যোগ্যতর সমালোচকেরা সমালোচনা করেছেন ; কাজেই সেই সকল সংখ্যার পুনরুক্তি করে আমি পরিষদের সময় নষ্ট করতে চাই না। পাঁজিতে লেখা থাকে—একশো আড়া বৃষ্টি হবে, কিন্তু নিষ্কাষণ যন্ত্রে তাকে নিষ্কাষণ করলে যেমন এক ফোঁটা জলও পাওয়া যায় না, তেমনি বাজেটের খাতায় পাতায় কোটি কোটি টাকার বরাদ্দ থাকলেও তাতে দীন-দরিদ্রের জীবন যাপনের জন্য যেখানে সত্যকারের অর্থের প্রয়োজন সেখানে কানা কড়িও মেলে না।

কিন্তু এ ক'দিনের আলোচনার ভিতর দিয়ে একটা সমৃদ্ধিশালী প্রদেশের দ্রুত আর্থিক অধঃপতনের যে করুণ ইতিহাস, যে মর্মন্তুদ কাহিনী প্রকাশ পেয়েছে তাতে করে আজ বাংলার বাঙালীর বিশেষ চিন্তার—বিশেষ বিবেচনার বিষয় হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে যে বাঙালী হিসেবে আমরা আছি কোথায়, আমরা চলেছি কোথায়! গত দশ বছর বাংলায় লীগ মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলের শাসন বহাল আছে। লীগ মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলের শাসন ব্যবস্থার ফলে বাংলা এবং বাঙালীকে দশ বছরে দশম দশায় উপনীত করেছে। (Laughter from the Congress Benches.) এদিকে আমরা (A VOICE FROM THE GOVERNMENT BENCHES : কেন আপনারাও তো বাজেট এনেছিলেন। আপনারাও তেমন কিছু সুবিধা করতে পারেন নি।) ওধারের বন্ধুরা চটে ওঠেন। যত যাই বলি না কেন, ওঁরা ভোটের জোরে জেদ বজায় রাখেন। কিন্তু সত্য যা কখনো সে ভোটের চাপে উপে যাবে না।

বছরের পর বছর আসে, বাজেটের পর বাজেট হয়, মন্ত্রীর পর মন্ত্রী আসেন, মসনদে বসেন—মন্ত্রণা দেন ; কিন্তু জাতির যন্ত্রণা বেড়েই চলেছে। ঘাটতি পূরণের বাইরের উপায় নির্দ্ধারণের দ্বারা এর কোন প্রতিকার নাই, এর প্রতিকার আছে—শাসন কর্তৃপক্ষের মনের ঘাটতি পূরণের দ্বারা। ঘাটতির মূল কারণ বিশ্লেষণ করলে দেখতে পাবেন অর্থের কমতির জন্য বাজেটে ঘাটতি নয়। মনের ঘাটতির দরুণই বাজেটে অর্থের কমতি।

নিকট বন্ধু-বান্ধব ও আত্মীয়-স্বজনের পকেট পূরণ, ভোট সংগ্রহের জন্য দালাল নিয়োজনে কণ্ট্রাক্ট বণ্টন, সাম্প্রদায়িক বিষবৃক্ষে বারিসিঞ্চন, এবং যেন তেন প্রকারেণ মন্ত্রিত্বের গদি-প্রাপ্তিই যাদের জীবনের সাধনা, জাগরণের ধ্যান এবং নিদ্রার স্বপ্ন তাদের কাছে কুবেরের ভাণ্ডারও দু'চারদিনে উজাড় হয়ে যায়। তাই ঘাটতির মূল কারণ নির্ণয়ের প্রয়োজন। খবরের কাগজ খুলুন দেখবেন বড় হরপে ছাপা হয়েছে—ঘাটতি—ঘাটতি—ঘাটতি ॥ কিন্তু বাংলার এই বাজেটের

ঘাট্‌তি সম্বন্ধে নামকরা কাগজগুলি একমত হতে পারেনি। "Statesman"এর মতে আসল ঘাট্‌তি ১২ কোটি টাকা, "Nationalist"এর মতে ১৩ কোটি, "Hindusthan Standard"এর মতে ১৪ কোটি, "অমৃত বাজারের" মতে ২৫ কোটি। মনে হয় তাঁরা কেউ মেপেছেন ঘাট্‌তির length বা দৈর্ঘ্য, কেউ মেপেছেন তার breadth বা প্রস্থ, আর কেউ মেপেছেন তার উচ্চতা, কাজেই প্রকৃত পরিমাণ পেতে হলে এই দৈর্ঘ্য, প্রস্থ ও উচ্চতার ঘন ফল কষতে হয়। সেটা হয়ত কয়েক শত কোটি টাকায় দাঁড়াবে।

তাঁর বাজেট বক্তৃতায় তিনি আমাদের মনে করিয়ে দিয়েছেন--কলকাতার হাঙ্গামার দরুণ বিক্রয়কর ও আবগারি বিভাগের মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় ও তাঁর অনুগামীরা ভাবছেন হিসাবটা বাগবাজারী আয়ের কমতির কথা; কিন্তু প্রত্যক্ষ সংগ্রামের হাঙ্গামায় এই বাংলার যে ধনসম্পত্তি নষ্ট হয়েছে তার হিসাবটা যদি যোগ দিতেন, তবে দেখতেন বাগবাজারী নয়, বাজেটারী কাল্পনিক নয়, প্রামাণিক, তাহলে একা কলকাতার কোটির সংখ্যাই দশম অঙ্কে গিয়ে ঠেকত। তার পরেও আছে নোয়াখালী। আপনারা মনে করবেন না আমি পুরানো কাসুন্দি ঘেটে পরস্পরের মধ্যে মনোমালিন্য বৃদ্ধি করবার চেষ্টা করছি। কথা হচ্ছে--বাংলার বাজেট যার জন্য বছরের পর বছর ঘাটতির ঘুর চাকার পাকে পাকে ঘুরপাক খাচ্ছে, ঘাট্‌তিখানির সেই ঘাদু ঘুনপোকাগুলির এবারে বাজেটে শুধু বয়ে যায় নাই, তাদের বংশবৃদ্ধির পাকাপাকি ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে। (Laughter from the Opposition Benches.)

মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় তাঁর বাজেট উদ্বোধনী বক্তৃতার এক জায়গায় বলেছেন যে কোন সরকারেরই তহবিলে বছরের পর বছর ধরে বারো কোটি টাকার ঘাট্‌তি থাকাটা ঠিক নয়, এর প্রতিকার দরকার। প্রতিকার দরকার--অতি সত্য কথা। কিন্তু কথা ভালই হোক আর মন্দই হোক, কথা--কথামাত্র, তাতে চিড়ে ভেজে না। দেখা যায় তাঁর কথামত ১২ কোটি টাকা ঘাট্‌তি। এর অন্ততঃ ৬ কোটি টাকা ঘাটতির কারণ কি,--অনুসন্ধান করলেই দেখবেন,—পাকিস্থান প্রচেষ্টার প্রত্যক্ষ সংগ্রামের প্রথম অঙ্কের প্রথম দৃশ্যের প্রয়োজনা। তারপর বাঁকুড়া, বর্দ্ধমান ও মেদিনীপুর প্রভৃতি না-পাকিস্থানে বেহার থেকে আমদানির বহর "লড়কে লেঙ্গের" জন্য সরকারী লঙ্গরখানা স্থাপনের যে ব্যবস্থা সেইটেতে হচ্ছে পাকিস্থান নাটকের দ্বিতীয় দৃশ্যের আয়োজন। এমিভাবে একদিকে কার্য্যতঃ পাকিস্থান প্রযোজনার দৃশ্যের পর দৃশ্যপটের কল্পনা চলবে, আর মুখে বলা হবে--বাজেট ঘাট্‌তির প্রতিকারের কথা, এরূপ ক্ষেত্রে মনের ঘাট্‌তি পূরণের সমস্যাটাই হচ্চে আসল প্রশ্ন। সুতরাং সত্যই যদি তিনি বাজেটের প্রকৃত ঘাট্‌তি দূর করে একে stable করতে চান তাহলে মাথায় যে পাকিস্থানী পোকা আছে তা দূর না করলে হবে না।

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the initiation of the Budget debate by the honourable member representing the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, our young hopeful, discussed the demerits of the youthful Finance Minister's financial statement very ably. Then the honourable member representing the Calcutta University strongly emphasized on the communal colour of the Budget and pointed his finger to the corruption regarding boat construction and other defects in the Budget. Mr. Methold, speaking on behalf of the European Group, wanted light from the Finance Minister regarding the mysterious darkness round some of the expenditure or should I say the blackness of which was apparent. Other members to your left, Sir, criticised the Budget as unsatisfactory and not calculated to meet the needs of the Province. The supporters of the Government mostly congratulated their Finance Minister on the financial statement and naturally enough resented any attack on the ground of communalism. Sir, in the midst of all these there is one thing which must be admitted and it is that it is a financially bankrupt budget. On that question there cannot be any controversy and the deficits are alarmingly high. The only question therefore is whether the policy and plan are also bankrupt. The question that naturally arises in the minds of the members of this House is—is this Budget aiming at the amelioration of the condition of the people of this province? Is this Budget aiming at the alleviation of the distress of the people of this province which immediately must be removed? I dare say that the supporters of Government will also give a high priority to this criterion of the Budget, namely, whether this Budget is taking effective steps to prevent the miseries of the people of this province or not. That is the real criterion to be applied.

Sir, I shall direct the attention of the House to one most important matter which is agitating the mind of everybody in this House. I think everyone in this House would like to test the Budget in the light whether this Budget can keep down the soaring prices of rice which is the staple food of the province. Sir, in the Eastern Bengal districts the prices have soared up much high. They will naturally ask, every one of them, even those who look at Muslim standpoint more than the standpoint of the Hindus, they would like the Finance Minister to assure them that this Budget will keep down the soaring prices of rice; that this Budget will ensure equitable distribution of the cloth that is available in order to hide the shame and indignities of the female folk at least. This being the criterion we have got to see whether this budget seeks or serves to do that. It would not do for the members of this House to pass a grant of 884 lakhs and odd thousand for Civil Supplies if the Civil Supplies Department cannot maintain an adequate supply of rice for the people of the province. If they cannot make rice available at a price within the capacity of the poor masses of the people who cannot pay high price, while the racketeers, profiteers and black marketeers are thriving on that.

Sir, when the members go back to their constituencies, they will be asked by the people, "You have passed the budget, but what of that? Does the budget aim at increasing the production? Does the budget at the same time aim at keeping down the prices which have increased the index of the cost of living?" That will be the criterion which will be applied and that must be ensured. The young Finance Minister who has proved himself responsive to public enquiries, by attending to any information he is given, must keep his eyes open on all departments to see that the needs of the poor people are served and not of the black marketeers, profiteers, licence-holders and others.

Sir, there is one thing I want to say. It is about the communal complaint that has been made. I for one do not think, when the Scheduled Castes people are being granted something or the Muslim community in order to be levelled up from its backwardness is granted something—I do not call it communal, for that is in the interest of the province to level up. But communalism comes up when an entire community is going to be levelled down without consideration of their needs as inhabitants of the province.

(At this stage the red light was lit.)

I appeal to the Ministry to see that the finances of Bengal are employed to the best advantage of the people of Bengal as a whole.

Mr. MAHAMMAD OWAIS : Mr. Chairman, Sir, বলা হয়েছে যে, এই বাজেটে অত্যন্ত বেশী টাকা ধরা হয়েছে এবং এই রকম বাজেট আর কখনও করা হয় নাই কিন্তু এটা কেউ বলেনি যে, এখন যেভাবে money value কমে গিয়েছে তাতে এই ৪৫ কোটি টাকায় পূর্বের ৮।১০ কোটি টাকার সমান কাজও হবে না। এখন এক টাকার জিনিষ ১৫ টাকা দিয়ে কিনতে হচ্ছে। কাজেই যদিও এবারকার বাজেটে ৪৫ কোটি টাকা ধরা হয়েছে কিন্তু তার দ্বারা আগের সে ১৫ কোটি টাকার সমান কাজ হবে না।

বিরুদ্ধ পক্ষ এই বাজেটকে communal বাজেট বলেছেন। Reliefএর জন্য ২ কোটি টাকার অধিক খরচ করা হয়েছে। ডাঃ শ্যামাপ্রসাদ মুখার্জি বলেছেন যে

He never heard of a Minister in charge of Relief Department. But he should know that our Caliph Hajrat Umar used to carry bags of foodstuffs on his shoulder to the homes of the needy and indigent. The wretched condition of the refugees touched the heart of the Hon'ble Relief Minister and he himself looked after the refugees for better management.

কিন্তু বিরুদ্ধ পক্ষের চিন্তা করা উচিত যে, যে সমস্ত লোকদের জন্য reliefএর ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে তাদের বেশীর ভাগই বিহার থেকে এসেছে এবং তাদের fellow brethren যারা homeless, childless

এবং motherless হয়েছে। বিরুদ্ধ পক্ষের তাদের জন্য সহানুভূতি থাকা উচিত এবং সেজন্য মাননীয় অর্থসচিবকে ধন্যবাদ দেওয়া উচিত ছিল কারণ তিনি এই সমস্ত লোকদের জন্য কিছুটা ব্যবস্থা করেছেন without distinction of any caste and creed.

Objections have been raised because the refugees happened to be Muslims, but it would never have been raised, had they been Hindus and it would have been paid by a Hindu Finance Minister.

এখন আমি Civil Supply Department সম্বন্ধে ২।১ কথা না বলে পারি না। এটা আমাদের civil peopleকে supply করার জন্য হয়েছে কিন্তু বাস্তবিক পক্ষে বলতে গেলে আমার মনে হয় most of the people of the Civil Supplies Department are dishonest and they are after satisfying their unsatiable lust for wealth by corruption depriving the public of their due and legitimate shares. They are hoarding money and wealth not only to make provision for themselves and their future generations till doomsday but also to enter the paradise if possible even by bribing the guards there.

(At this stage the red light was lit and the member having reached the time-limit was asked to sit.)

Sir, I have got one precedent. In spite of the hammering and red light yesterday one member was allowed to speak beyond his time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN (Mr. K. S. ROY): Never follow a bad precedent.

Mr. PANIRUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on rising to support the budget for the coming year introduced by the Hon'ble Finance Minister I like to say at the outset that the Muslims of Bengal have been accusing for some time the present Ministry for adopting the policy of appeasing my friends on the opposite at the cost of the Muslim cause on many occasions. But what an irony of fate! Instead of receiving recognition and appreciation for their same-side goals, they are now branded as rank communal, as well be evident from the speeches made on the floor of the House for the last three days.

The Muslims of Bengal are crying now for a Muslim University—a University of their own—and why? Will my friends on the opposite pause for a moment and try to find out the cause? Is it not because the Calcutta Hindu University imparts communal education that the Muslims began to feel the crying necessity for a Muslim University in Bengal? Is it not because the Muslims of India had been downtrodden and ill treated by my friends on the opposite and people of their persuasion in all spheres of life from the inception of the British rule in India that they began to think themselves as a separate nation and claim a separate home of their own in the name of Pakisthan? Had they been fair, reasonable and sympathetic towards the minority communities, the fate of India would have been quite different from what it is now.

The fact that a few lakhs of rupees has been allotted for the expansion of the Islamia College and Muslim education in a Muslim-majority province has been eyesore to them. If we turn over the pages of the budget, what do we find? We find that the major portion of the budgeted amount has been allotted for development projects and under other heads for greater Calcutta and West Bengal. But who are going to be benefited by these projects? What is the percentage of the Muslim population in Calcutta and West Bengal?

Government has recently decided to shift the Kurigram Subdivisional headquarters to the Lalmonirhat air base, the north-western extremity of the subdivision at a distance of 20 miles in the teeth of our opposition. To cool down our resentment and for better facilities of communication we have been given to understand by the higher authorities that the three major district

roads, one from Lalmonirhat to Kurigram, one from Bhurungamari to Chilmari and the third from Lalmonirhat to Nageswari will be taken up in the year 1947-48. But to our utter surprise we find that no provision at all has been made for it in the budget. I, on behalf of the people of the Kurigram subdivision, appeal to the Hon'ble Finance Minister and through him to the Ministry at large to see that the abovementioned major district roads are taken up immediately.

Sir, there will be baseless criticism of the budget from the Opposition, but I assure the Hon'ble Finance Minister that *Ensa Allah* the caravan will pass.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this budget is a painful study. On a careful study of it you will find nepotism, corruption, inefficiency, want of care for the poor and the hungry and above all, group communalism in its naked form is writ large in every page of the budget. Since 1937 the revenue receipts had increased three times and the expenditure had also increased more than three times, but is there any improvement in the condition of the poor and the hungry? Let Government answer.

I am really sorry, Sir, that I have to refer to communalism even in the grant of relief. Nobody deplores the incidents in Bihar more than we do. We do not justify that action for what had happened in Noakhali. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar has admitted it in his answer on the motion of no-confidence but this Government is guilty of communalism even in reliefs. For Bihar refugees the Government had spent Rs. 51 lakhs in the year 1946-47 and has provided Rs. 54 lakhs in the year 1947-48, but for the refugees in Noakhali, Tippera and Dacca, the Government had spent Rs. 47 lakhs and has provided Rs. 40 lakhs in the year 1947-48. The amount is extremely insufficient. Refugee camps in Noakhali and Tippera had been abolished but the refugee camps for Bihar refugees still exist. I do not like to poison the atmosphere by referring to other cases of discriminatory treatment.

For rehabilitation in Noakhali and Tippera the Government has been offering a very insignificant sum. Corrugated iron sheets offered are quite insufficient. Timber, bamboo and other building materials are not available and, if available, they are very costly. The sum of Rs. 250 for building houses is extremely insufficient. I gave notice of a special motion to have a debate on the subject, but it has not been granted up till this day.

The situation in Noakhali and Tippera has deteriorated. Mahatma Gandhi has stated it and Shree Satish Chandra Das Gupta has written a letter to this effect. Maulvi Fazlul Huq by an extremely communal speech at Comilla has raised communal passion, but the Government did not take any steps to prevent it.

Inefficiency is evident from the failure of Government to spend the amounts budgeted for, specially in the nation-building departments of Irrigation, Agriculture, Industries, Education and Civil Works. My young friend Shree Bimal Chandra Sinha has referred to it exhaustively and I shall refer to only a few.

Under the head "Agriculture" on the Development Programme, the amount budgeted for is Rs. 41,45,000 and the amount spent is Rs. 27,12,000. Under the head "Insdustries" on the Development Programme, the amount budgeted for is Rs. 30,63,000 and the amount spent is Rs. 4,54,000. Under the head "Education", on Encouragement of Post-graduate Research the amount budget for is Rs. 10 lakhs and, Sir, you will be astonished to hear that no expenditure has been made on this head and no provision has been made this year. The Government grant to the Jadavpur College has been reduced from Rs. 2,40,000 to Rs. 40,000. Under the head "Irrigation", on re-excavation of derelict tanks the amount budgeted for is Rs. 30 lakhs and the amount spent is Rs. 19 lakhs and there is no provision made this year.

Under the head "Forests" for raising a revenue of Rs. 36 lakhs an expenditure of Rs. 34 lakhs is incurred and also budgeted for this year. Another instance of inefficiency and nepotism is the appointment of three Chief Whips.

Other glaring instances of inefficiency and corruption are the loss on the construction of boats and the loss on the sale of subsidised foods and also the expenditure on "Grow More Food" schemes which is another name of "Grow More Officers".

The Civil Supplies Department is another name for corruption. Expenditure under the head "Civil Supplies" with a large paraphernalia is Rs. 5,58,81,400, but what is the result? In the month of Falgoon the price of rice in the deficit district of Dacca ranges between Rs. 32 and Rs. 24. In Mymensingh, an allegedly surplus district, the price in some places is Rs. 25 and in Barisal, perhaps the district with the biggest surplus, it is Rs. 23. In Pabna, a self-sufficient district, the price is Rs. 25 in the villages and Rs. 22-8 in the town. This sample reveals the chaos. In the procurement area the price of rice is only Rs. 9 to Rs. 10. But see Mr. Hartley, Bengal's Director-General of Food, has admitted in the recent Press Conference, contrary to the statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the unsatisfactory character of procurement and the alarming rate of smuggling of rice. Already there are signs of food chaos. I put a question if there is supply in the godowns of the deficit districts.

For Calcutta rationing only we spend Rs. 1,52,69,300, but with what result? We stand in queues awaiting for our turns for hours together. We do not get mustard oil and coal and even now we get bad quality of rice. Is it not the result of inefficiency and corruption?

The Bengal Administration Enquiry Committee in its report in March, 1945, had stated: So widespread has corruption become and so defeatist is the attitude taken towards it that we think that the most drastic steps should be taken to stamp out the evil which has corrupted the public service and public morals. Anything less is a denial of justice to the poor people of the Province who comprise the bulk of its population and who, in the end, have to pay for the bribes which go to enrich the unscrupulous and the dishonest.

The report suggested remedies and steps. The Government, which was then Section 93 Government, appointed Rai Bijan Behari Mukherji Bahadur to further suggest remedies for eradicating the evil. The Rai Bahadur suggested remedies and steps, but his report which was submitted during this regime has been given a decent burial. No steps had been taken to remove the corruption. The reasons are obvious. Before I leave this subject I must tell the Government that corruption in administration will wreck any constitution however meticulously perfected in theory and no State can be run where corruption is widespread and goes undetected and unpunished.

The next point I shall deal with is want of care for the poor and the hungry: Hunger, want of clothing prevail throughout the province. We find an agrarian trouble. The poor Hajangs have, it is alleged, risen in revolt. The poor Rajbansis—the poor cultivators in North Bengal have also, it is said, risen in revolt. The hunger has led them to revolt. You may kill them, you may utilise the engines of oppression as you have been doing but unless you remove the root causes, those troubles will reappear. Has the budget anyway provided for the removal of root causes? What is the meaning of the Labour Department unless you can settle the labour disputes? We find strikes in Calcutta everywhere. Tramway labourers are on strike for more than a month. Hunger led them to desperation. You have not been able to settle the disputes. The poor lowly paid officers and menials have got their hunger stamped on their face. When I see the hungry looks of the menials of this House, when I hear their piteous cries, my heart goes out in sympathy for them. But in this budget is there any

provision for improving the lots of these poor people? The primary school teachers who are the most useful members but at the same time the most miserably and lowly paid class of the society are crying for relief. They have rightly threatened to go on strike. The relief provided for them in the budget is most insignificant. Look at Bombay. For Education the amount budgeted was Rs. 5 crores in 1946-47 for two crores of people. It has been increased by one crore. Our education budget this year is Rs. 4,21,24,000 for about six crores of illiterate people. In rural areas the primary education has altogether stopped; the teachers do not generally attend schools. There is no school building, no furniture, no books.

Sir, before I take my seat I want to give a warning to all people of Bengal—to all of us. After the momentous statement of Mr. Attlee on the 20th February last a new responsibility has arisen. We must be alive to the critical and historical situation in the country. Politics now means playing with the lives of many innocent people entrusted to our care. I find in the Hindus, the minority community a sense of insecurity, a sense of frustration grown out of the conduct and the misdeeds of this Government. It is really dangerous. This fact must be removed. If Bengal is to be saved then by their action they must replace suspicion by trust. This budget was prepared in the old setting. We must tear it up and prepare a new budget for the united Bengal. Our leader Mahatma Gandhi has been trying in the lonely villages of Rural Bengal to create a budget for us to restore a good feeling amongst us. It is up to us to help him in this direction. Otherwise dark days lie ahead of us. We must remember we are on trial before the bar of the whole world. (Applause.)

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I hope the House is conscious of the fact that I have risen today to undertake a task of a stupendous nature, namely, that of replying to a debate which lasted for four days and in which exactly 50 members of this House have participated. The time at my disposal is short, but I propose to deal with the major points that have been raised on the floor of this House. Of course I shall not be able to deal with minor points or points of local importance.

Before I begin I would like to state that you, Sir, Mr. Chairman, as Leader of the Opposition, made some remarks regarding the budget and you said that it would be useless for you to participate in the debate, because firstly there is no point in discussing the budget as even though you have the preponderance of eloquence and logic on your side there will be no effect on the budget estimates. Sir, I would respectfully point out that you omitted one fact. You did not include that you also had the preponderance of abuses and castigation on your side when members of your party participated in the debate. You referred to the fact that the Hon'ble Chief Minister is absent during the budget debate and you did not see any point in participating in the discussion because he is the only person in the Cabinet who is a sort of Fuehrer. Of course by implication it may be so, but he is by no means a dictator. There is no gainsaying the fact that the Chief Minister is an outstanding personality. He is head and shoulders above everybody, but he is by no means a dictator. Members on this side of the House do not owe allegiance to personalities. They owe allegiance to their organisation and to their party. You are aware, Sir, and I am sure members of this House are also aware that we had a President of our Provincial Muslim League Organisation who was also the leader of our Parliamentary party. He faltered and wavered and deviated from the path, and he was thrust outside. He is clear, therefore, that members of this side of the House do not owe allegiance to personalities. As such we have no dictator and your reference was thus out of place.

Before I begin to take up the points raised by Mr. Bimal Chandra Ghose I would like to make a reference to the fact that numerous speakers have stressed the fact that we have been presenting deficit budgets. I am sure

the House will be interested to learn that the Central Government of which Pandit Nehru claims to be the leader has today this afternoon presented a deficit budget which amounts to 48;46 crores at the existing level of taxation. (MR. GANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Because they are new.) Sir, members of the House sitting opposite owe allegiance to the Central Government. I think it was Mr. Sharfuddin Ahmad who had said that the speech of Mr. Bimal Chandra Ghose was a briefed speech on behalf of the Government of India. We have Mr. Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar who also, it appears, owes allegiance to the Centre rather than to the province, and this is also apparent from the manner of his dress. He is sporting Nehru Coat and Gandhi Cap.

Now, Sir, I come back to Mr. Bimal Chandra Ghose. He has said that I was guilty of terminological inexactitudes, and that I made incorrect references and that we are attempting to make Sir Otto Niemeyer a scapegoat. He also said that Rs. 75 lakhs was not a grant for one year but that it was a recurring grant. He further said that if Bengal gets her share of the income-tax and jute duty even then Bengal will be deficit. Sir, I have before me facts and figures and I will prove to the House how wrong and erroneous Mr. Bimal Chandra Gose was.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: He is Comar and not Chandra.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am sorry. He has adopted a new position. He writes Comar with "C" and therefore I was misled.

Sir, I will quote the Niemeyer Award; I shall quote extracts from it: It reads thus: "My first object has accordingly been to examine the present and prospective financial position of the provinces and to determine the extent to which special assistance will be needed in order to achieve the above end. Next it is necessary to consider how far the Central Government is in a psoition to render such assistance without jeopardising its own solvency". I hope, Sir, Mr. Ghose will mark these words "without jeopardising its own solvency". Then again "from the Central point of view, on the other hand, it is clear that the financial stability and credit of India as a whole is of paramount consideration". Then again "moreover this is as essential to the maintenance and success of Provincial Autonomy as it is to the Centre itself. Throughout my recommendations" mark the word "throughout" "I have kept the financial stability of the Centre continuously in mind".

From this it will appear that when Sir Otto Niemeyer made the Award he had the question of financial stability of the Centre at the back of his mind throughout and he did not consider the question of financial stability of the provinces. And now, Sir, so far as his claim that Rs. 75 lakhs is a recurring grant is concerned, I would like to refer to the Niemeyer Award. When this Award was made, the Government of Bengal owed to the Government of India a sum of Rs. 33 lakhs which was wiped out. And when the percentage of allocation of jute duty was raised from 50 to 62½ per cent., Bengal was allocated an additional 12½ per cent. which gave us then a sum of Rs. 42 lakhs. Therefore this Rs. 42 lakhs and Rs. 33 lakhs made up a total of Rs. 75 lakhs. It was for one year only, and this Rs. 75 lakhs was not an annual subvention from the centre.

Then, again, Mr. Ghose went on to say that Bengal would be a deficit province and would be continually in financial difficulty even if she gets her full share of income-tax and jute duty. That would be wrong. The income-tax paid by Bengal in 1945-46 amounted to Rs. 17 crores and jute duty to Rs. 2.18 lakhs—the total comes to 19 crores 18 lakhs. If we had this money our financial difficulties would have been over.

Then again this would have been our income only under two heads, namely, income-tax and jute duty.

Then again the import duty collected from the Ports of Calcutta and Chittagong amounted to Rs. 67½ crores. Added to this, collections from Postage revenue amounting to Rs. 2½ crores make up a total of Rs. 70 crores; and this Rs. 70 crores plus Rs. 19 crores 18 lakhs as mentioned earlier, gives a total figure of Rs. 89 crores 18 lakhs. I do not take into consideration the income derived from Railways in the province. This will show that if Bengal were independent from the Centre, Bengal would have got this Rs. 89 crores 18 lakhs and she would not in that case have been in financial difficulties. Sir, this will explode the charge. (At this stage there were interruptions and loud noise.) Sir, I did not interrupt a single member during these four days when they were hurling vilifications at us, and I hope the honourable members opposite will have the decency and patience to hear me in silence.

Sir, as I was saying this explodes the charge that Bengal cannot be financially stable if she becomes independent. I hold, Sir, that if Bengal was free from the control of the Centre and had no obligation to the Centre, Bengal would have been financially stable.

Then, Mr. Ghose said that the responsibility for the financial condition of Bengal cannot be attributed to war conditions because the evil influences of war were common to all the provinces. And as a matter of fact he said that Assam was nearer to the theatre of war operations. This is true that Assam has emerged financially intact out of war operations, but Assam was not the base of operations as Bengal was. It was Bengal that suffered most; Bengal had to feed a standing army; Bengal had to suffer from the denial policy and scorched earth policy; and not only that, Bengal had to maintain the bases of operations from which the Eastern war was conducted. Therefore the case of Bengal was not on par with other provinces. When other provinces were reaping the rich harvest as a result of the war, when they were piling up their resources and building up a Post-War Reconstruction Fund, Bengal was going down, because of a standing army in Bengal; Bengal's internal economic condition was disrupted because of the construction of aerodromes, military camps and military hospitals. A large number of people in Bengal had to be evacuated because land was required for military purposes.

Then, Sir, as regards the Boat Construction Scheme, 30,000 boats were requisitioned and destroyed. Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee said that he would call it a Boat Fiasco scheme. Sir, we certainly cannot be held responsible for that unfortunate policy adopted by the then Government. I ask Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee, who was responsible primarily for this action of the then Government of Bengal? It was the Government of Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee. He was the dominant personality in the Syamaprasad-Huq Cabinet which had taken over 30,000 boats belonging to the people of Bengal and destroyed most of them. As a result there was an acute shortage of boats and Government had to adopt a scheme of boat construction. (MR. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: The contractor was a Minister's wife!)

Subsequently, if the Government adopted that policy of boat construction it was due to the fact that Dr. Mookerjee's Government had adopted the denial policy which entirely disrupted the economic condition of the people of Bengal. If anybody was responsible for this, it was Dr. Mookerjee himself and others of his Cabinet. (MR. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: It was Sir John Herbert, your guardian angel.)

Sir, it has also been said that if heavy expenditure on police, famine, extraordinary charges were not there, the budget would have been a surplus budget. That is correct. This statement which Mr. Ghose has made is correct. The budget would have, of course, been a surplus if we did not undertake any expenditure under famine and extraordinary charges. I hope

Mr. Ghose will realise that Government is not a profit-making company; Government has to look to the interests of the people. (Loud noise from the Opposition benches.)

Sir, my thrusts are going home and the honourable members are getting restless because all their charges are baseless. I have full sympathy with them. Government had to undertake this heavy expenditure for humanitarian reasons, and no Government worth its salt can resist expending money for the amelioration of human sufferings. I am sure it might have been possible for Mr. Bimal Comar Ghose and men of his ilk to resist the temptation of doing good to the suffering people and thereby have a surplus budget. Our budget also would have been a surplus one if people were allowed to die on the streets. (Loud noise.)

Sir, Dr. Mookerjee unfortunately is not here. He made his allegations and he has conveniently kept himself away from here today because he knows all his charges are hollow. He said that Bengal is mortgaged to the Central Government. That is true, that is a correct statement. But it is an unfortunate position. Why is it so? It is because of the British imperialistic policy in collusion with the vested interests of the country that they have mortgaged this province to the Centre. Unfortunately it is a fact and it cannot be denied that but for the Permanent Settlement the condition of the people of Bengal would have been otherwise.

Sir, Mr. Suresh Das Gupta said the other day that 29 lakhs was spent for collection of 19 lakhs. The implication was that it would not be profitable to secure the zamindary interest. At the present moment, I may say, zamindars collect 16 crores of rupees and they give to Government only 3 crores as revenue, and 13 crores disappear into the pockets of these middlemen. Had Bengal not been saddled with this permanent settlement and if Bengal would have had the same advantage as Madras and Bombay, Bengal's finances would have been up by 13 crores and there would not have been any question of financial stringency in this province.

Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee said that Bengal's budget reflects the mind and ways of the Muslim League. That is true. He does not surely expect that this budget will reflect the mind and ways of the Hindu Mahasabha. That is not possible. (Cries of "hear" "hear" from the Government benches.) It must be. The Muslim League has been put into power by the people of this province. ("Question" from the Congress benches.) They had a definite programme and a definite manifesto. They placed the programme before the country and the Muslims of Bengal to a man supported this programme and we have been put into power by the people and we have framed our budget according to the needs of the province. Each and every item is being honoured by us and most of them during this session. The question of liquidation of permanent settlement which formed the main item of our programme is being taken up and a Bill will be placed before the House this session. The question of introduction of the Secondary Education Bill is also before the Government and will be placed before this House this session and similar legislative measures are being introduced by Government in accordance with the policy and programme of the organisation that is in power today. Therefore, it is very true to say that the budget reflects the programme of this Ministry—it is very correct. That is the political position and it has to be so.

I have already said about the reference by Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee to boat construction and leaky boats and so I need not go through this aspect again. I would only tell Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee in the words of a Persian poet, viz.—

درمیان قعر دریا تختہ بندم کردہ
باز می گوئی دامن تر مکن ہشیار باش

It means that you have dumped me into the middle of the river and then you say "Do not wet your skirt. Be careful". Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee was similarly responsible for the destruction of 30,000 boats and if the Government subsequently had to take up the question of replacement, they are being blamed by Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee.

Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee said that the scheme for the expenditure of Rs. 30 lakhs for excavation of derelict tanks has been abandoned. This is not correct. There is provision for Rs. 30 lakhs—Rs. 19 lakhs has been spent and Rs. 11 lakhs is being spent. So, this is a groundless charge. It is in the revised budget—Rs. 19 lakhs was spent and the rest is also being spent. So, the whole 30 lakhs will be spent for the excavation of derelict tanks.

Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee made an allegation that the scheme for the training of primary school teachers is being abandoned because there are no Muslims who have been trained to take up this work. Certainly, Sir, there is a genuine grievance on the part of the Muslims that they were not treated fairly and squarely. During the Section 93 regime not a single Muslim was selected for overseas training, but even in spite of the fact that the Muslims are labouring under a grievance, this scheme has not been abandoned but Government are going through with the scheme. The fact is that it could not be given effect to immediately because the building was under military occupation and the building has now been derequisitioned. Government are going through the scheme of training of primary school teachers. So, in spite of the fact that the Muslims have a grievance, the charge is absolutely baseless because Government are going through the scheme.

Sir, the question of Islamia College was referred to. Of course, the words "Islamia College", "Islamia Hospital" and "Hospitals for Muslims" have been objected to by our friends on the opposite side. The word "Islamia" or "Muslim" is anathema to them, I understand and I know it, but they will certainly realise the injustice that has been perpetrated on the Muslims for years and years and years. Sir, the Muslims of this province are 56 per cent. and what is the percentage of students in the secondary schools or primary schools of the province? If there is a sound educational policy, it should be the look out of the Government to see that the number of students in schools of a particular community should reflect the same proportion as the proportion of their population. That should be the sound educational policy. If Muslims are 56 per cent., why is it that Muslims are not even 25 per cent. in schools and colleges? Why is it? Because I admit that they had not the means to send their children to schools for education and that is why it is the duty of the State to see that the poor are helped. It may happen—for reasons which I have already stated and for reasons into which I need not go—that the Muslims have been crushed. There was in India a Muslim Government and this government was wrested from the Muslims and the Muslims could not adjust themselves to the changed condition in India and it took them time and that why they were backward. But the Hindus who were under Muslim rule were transferred under British rule. To them it was only a change of masters. They could adjust themselves to this thing very easily. Instead of paying homage to Moghul Emperor, they started paying homage to the British Emperor—to the Emperor of England. They could adjust themselves easily and they could get the loaves and fishes of office. (Uproar.) Unfortunately the truth is always bitter. Therefore, they could get the Government patronage. What was the cause of the Permanent Settlement? Because the British Government wanted to establish themselves in this country and that is why they gave the permanent settlement to enlist the support of the big influential people and that is why they could crush the Muslims. Even if the Government had provided half a crore of rupees for the Muslims, it would not have

been unfair, but this Government has not done so. Government has only allotted Rs. 10 lakhs to right a wrong that has been systematically done and even to that our friends on the opposite object. That is very unfortunate.

Sir, I will require another 45 minutes.

Then I come to Mr. Mazharul Haque. He said that there is no provision for the development of the rural areas. I have said times without number—and I am very glad to hear that Mr. Walker supports that principle—that this Government has a definite rural bias. There is no question of any doubt. This Government has a rural bias. This Government will do its utmost to divert attention to the rural areas because the policy hitherto has been to concentrate all amenities of decent living to the people living in urban areas. The people in urban areas—rich and influential—have had enough of amenities, but the people in the villages are in terrible condition. They are half-clothed, half-fed and are dying of diseases and famine. Therefore, it is essential for every Government to provide equal facilities for everybody and the Government will do its utmost for the development of the rural areas. Then, Sir, I come to the points raised by Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee. I have already dealt with the question about special facilities to Muslim education. Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee is suffering from a Muslim University phobia. He does not realise that in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh there are as many as five Universities, and even though this Government have no definite proposal, simply because there is only a move for a separate University, he becomes afraid. I do not know why every right-thinking person should not support the establishment and growth of as many Universities as possible. Look at England. There every major town has got a University. Why should the people here grudge if there be any more Universities in the Province? Sir, the Islamia College is being expanded; that is true, because, as I have said, the Muslims are backward in education and they need encouragement. The Islamia College will be expanded and will subsequently be converted into a University. It is quite likely that this Islamia College will be the nucleus of the future Muslim University. (MR. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Defalcation of public revenues.) (Uproar.)

Sir, Mr. Jadabendra Nath Panja has said that there should be a separate budget for the Civil Supplies Department, as the Government of India has a separate budget for the railways. Railway was started and run by a commercial enterprise. It has been taken over by Government. It is run on commercial lines for commercial purposes, but the Civil Supply Department is not on par with the railway, because the Civil Supply Department aims at providing food to the poor people even at subsidised rate in order to bring rice, wheat and other essential foodstuffs within the reach of the poor people. It would have been quite possible, if Government have the monopoly of the foodstuffs, for them to fix high rates and to see that this Department is not run at a loss, but Government do not want to make a profit out of the sufferings of the people. Government want that the essential foodstuffs should be within the reach of the poor. Of course, it is true that the Civil Supply Department is top-heavy. It was created during a period of emergency and when there was stress of emergency, but I may inform the House that a Cabinet Sub-Committee has been set up to effect possible retrenchment in the Civil Supplies Department. This Committee is meeting regularly and exploring the avenues of all possible retrenchment in every Branch of this Department after thorough discussion with the heads of the Branches. So far as expenditure in the Rationing, Textile and Publicity Department is concerned it has been under scrutiny and it is decided that there should be a reduction of approximately 33 per cent. of the existing subordinate staff: in the cloth section of the Directorate of Rationing and that two posts of Deputy Directors and five posts of Assistant Directors under the Directorate of Textile with a lagre number of

subordinate staff under them—Inspectors, Superintendents, clerks, etc., should be retrenched, and that some top posts in the Publicity Department should also be abolished together with other posts such as Information Officers. Other branches also will be examined in due course, because the Committee is meeting every week.

Another important decision taken is that as many boats as possible should be disposed of by the 31st March, 1947, so that the cost of maintenance may be cut down to the barest minimum. The steps so far taken indicate that economy to the extent of about Rs. 35 lakhs—staff Rs. 5 lakhs, Rs. 25 lakhs for boats and Rs. 6 lakhs for proposed discontinuance of grant-in-aid to the Bengal Textile Association—has been effected. We have already effected economy in four or five sittings of the Committee. We are continuing the deliberation of the Committee to effect further retrenchment as far as possible without affecting efficiency.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I hope you will finish by half past eight.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: All right, Sir. Mr. Fazlul Karim has said something about Madrasah Education and that there was no grant to the old scheme Madrasahs. That is not correct, because Rs. 80,000 is allotted for old-scheme Madrasah education in addition to the existing grant of Rs. 50,000. The total allotment for Madrasah Education is Rs. 10,41,000. The excess allotment this year is Rs. 1,80,000. So far as Finance Department is aware there is a provision of Rs. 1,30,000 (Rs. 50,000 existing grant and Rs. 80,000 new grant for 1947-48) for old scheme Madrasahs. Of course we have no information as to what is the allotment to the Junior Madrasahs.

Mr. Suresh Chandra Das Gupta has said some kind words and his approach was very rational. He made some constructive suggestions regarding the budget and I very much appreciate them. Of course, he said about consultation prior to framing of budget. I have explained to him and I explain to him again that it is not possible in democratic form of Government to consult regarding budget estimates with all the members of the House. It is not the practice also to consult the members of the Party in Power before framing the budget estimates. Therefore, it is not possible. I hope Mr. Das Gupta will realise the position.

Mr. Fazlul Quadir has said that allotment under primary education is not sufficient. The total provision for primary education is this: Primary Education Rs. 1,59,54,500. Pay of primary school teachers Rs. 1,59,44,500. An extra allotment this year is: Primary Education Rs. 34,00,000. Primary school teachers—another Rs. 34,00,000. This of course includes the development scheme to increase the salaries of existing primary school teachers.

Mr. A. K. Shamsuddin Ahmed has said that the proposed pay to be given to the primary school teachers is wholly inadequate. Certainly. But we have so many teachers of primary and we have so many schools that it is not possible for Government to give them the pay-scale to which they are entitled. Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed has mentioned that they are something less than menials of other Government Departments. This is true but the position is this that the primary school teachers live in their homes in their villages and they come and teach in schools situated nearabout their homes whereas this is not true in the case of other Government employees. So far as this is concerned while not denying the fact that they are inadequately paid, I would say that the only redeeming feature is that they work from their own homes and live in their own villages and they can look after their agriculture.

Mr. Fazlul Quadir wanted a provision of Rs. 10 lakhs for girls' education. We have got a provision of Rs. 36,27,000 for girls and provision for girls' education which includes Colleges, Secondary Schools, etc., is

Rs. 20,31,500. For primary schools the quota which goes for the education of girls is one-tenth of the total provision of Rs. 1,59,55,000, namely, Rs. 15,95,500. Total provision for girls' education is Rs. 36,27,000. Mr. Quadir wants us to provide only Rs. 10 lakhs. He will see that more than three and a half times are allotted.

Now coming to Mr. Methold I am very glad that he has accepted the position and he supports the claim for financial readjustment. I made out a case and it was opposed by Mr. Ghose. He wanted to know what was the percentage of income-tax for Bengal? We paid in 1945-46 a sum of 17 crores to the Central Government as income-tax. There is a divisible pool and we get 20 per cent. which is equal to the share of the Government of Bombay. This is true. I admit that the Government of Bombay pays more income-tax to the Centre than Bengal. But the population of Bombay at that time when the ratio was fixed was one-third of that of Bengal. Whereas Bombay and Bengal got equal shares while the *per capita* share of Bengal on a *per capita* basis should have been 3 times to that of the Bombay.

Then he says about the sales tax. We had hoped that under normal conditions the proceeds from the sales tax would have improved. But due to uncertain condition of business in Calcutta since August last I anticipated that there would be a deficit of fifty lakhs under the sales tax, but I am glad to inform the House that even in spite of disruption of normal trade activities there has been no fall. We did not anticipate any fall when the budget estimates were prepared. I have explained that we might even now get more than three crores. In the revised estimates for 1946-47 250 lakhs was estimated, but the normal yield was expected at three crores. But in view of the disrupted conditions since August last which led to virtual suspension of business activities for a long time serious fall was apprehended and so 250 lakhs was estimated. Fortunately, however, the situation greatly improved and we have been able to gather in 2·25 crores already and there would not be any loss of revenue under this head as we had apprehended. We could not, however, be so optimistic at first, but we would not be surprised if the forecast now exceeds three crores by the end of the current year. If there had been a settled condition in Bengal we might have netted as much as four crores. Of course, we have suffered a loss, but we have not fallen short of the original estimate of three crores. It may not be 3·25 crores, but it will be over three crores definitely.

Mr. Methold has suggested that there should be an overhaul of expenses on a business model; this is done and we are trying to see that Government departments are run on business lines as efficiently as possible. But his suggestion that it should be done by businessmen in trade is not acceptable. If however we see that his proposition is good, Government would be glad to set up a departmental machinery and overhaul the department so that we may get the maximum advantage out of it. I can, however, assure him that we shall give his proposal our most careful consideration.

Then, Sir, Mr. Methold has also referred to the Bihar refugee expenses and has enquired what arrangements we are making for their repatriation to Bihar. Probably honourable members know that the Chief Minister went to Patna recently to see what arrangement about repatriation can be made. In this connection I would say that some time ago when there was an exodus from Bengal to other provinces we received a letter from the Govarnment of India which stated that the financial responsibility for the maintenance of nationals of one province if they go into another province should be borne by that province, and on that basis we have written to the Central Government why the expenses incurred by the Bengal Government for the Bihar refugees should not be met either by the Central Government or by the Bihar Government. (Loud noise from the Opposition benches.) This is a letter from New Delhi, dated the 27th January, 1944, from the

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Labour, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Commerce and Labour Department:—

"The Government of India consider that in the event of its becoming necessary, the Government of a province, to which the destitute persons have migrated, should establish camps for such people pending their repatriation. In the opinion of the Government of India, the cost of such camps should be charged to the province of origin. In this Department's letter No. L/1 Camp, dated the 27th October, 1943, a request had already been made to take effective action by your Government, with the co-operation of the Railway Authorities, to prevent as far as possible the ticketless travel of destitutes or other persons attempting to migrate to other provinces."

Then, Sir, Mr. Methold also wanted to know what steps we are taking o see that accounts are properly kept, and we are enforcing strict measures or the recovery of loans and advances. Probably honourable members of his House are aware that a Bill is being introduced in this House to amend he Bengal Public Demands Recovery Act which will enable the Government to recover the loans given to agriculturists. A very high level Accounts Officer has now been appointed to regularise past transactions and o ensure correct maintenance of accounts. The terms of reference of ppointment of this officer are:

"He should examine the system of disbursement of Relief expenditure oth at headquarters and in outlying stations and take necessary action with view to—

(*i*) ensure proper control and supervision;

(*ii*) rectify irregularities; and

(*iii*) simplify procedure, whenever possible.

He should arrange, in consultation with the Accountant-General, for egular periodical audit of Relief expenditure both at headquarters and in utlying stations.

He should also examine all outstanding audit objections and dispose of hem expeditiously.

He should have access to all relevant records and should deal directly vith district officers and other disbursing officers in regard to accounts.

He should keep Finance Department posted periodically with the progress f settlement of audit objections."

So it will appear from what I have just now said that the Finance Department has appointed a high level Accounts Officer for this purpose. He has been instructed to keep accounts separately for relief of Bihar efugees, the riot victims and famine relief. So Mr. Methold will see that ve have been doing all that is possible for us to do——

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Who is the present incumbent to that ost?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: His name is Mr. Lahiri.

Now I come to Mr. Mukunda Behari Mullick. He made some bitter riticisms against this Ministry. Unfortunately he is not present. He nade the criticism and left the House. I have the greatest of regards for im. He is capable and has been in politics for a long time, and I have he best regards for him. Had I not had that amount of respect for him I night have misunderstood him, I might have thought that those criticisms night have been due to a sense of frustration.

With regard to his reference to Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal I would also ave misunderstood him that it was due to a sense of frustration on his part.

He has been in politics for a long time, and Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal is, according to him, a political kid, and to see him adorning a chair in the Executive Council of the Government of India may have led him to think that his claims have been ignored and, if I have not misunderstood him, this has caused some amount of frustration. I might think that 2,000 years ago Æsop the hoary bearded philosopher said, "Grapes are sour". Today I find it is as true as it was 2,000 years ago. Look at the logic, Sir, of Mr. Mullick's argument. I would invite the attention of the House to the mortality figures of 1946 which was the lowest in Bengal since 1920. Sir, I made it clear in my budget statement that this mortality figure was on *per mille* of population, and therefore it had nothing to do with the total population. Even then Mr. Mullick has said that the mortality figure is less because there are less people to die. When the figures quoted were *per mille* of the population, if I say that two per thousand died it does not matter whether the population was 2 lakhs or 20 lakhs—the ratio is two per thousand. Therefore it would have been obvious to him that these figures are records irrespective of the total number of persons. Apart from that I go further. I have checked up this population figure and the figure of 1946 is more than the figure of 1941 census. So even after the unfortunate deaths of so many persons of the province during that fateful year of 1943 the figure of 1946 is not less than the census figure of 1941. So even if we announce to the House such a good piece of news that the Public Health Department have proved by statistics that the mortality figure of the province was the lowest, yet Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullick will criticize and say that so many thousands of persons are dead and therefore these figures do not reflect the actual position.

Sir, Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu referred to political prisoners. The present position is this. There is no security prisoner in Bengal at present. Twenty-seven persons are, however, under detention under section 18 of the Bengal Security Prisoners Ordinance, three in connection with the Saidpur disturbance and 24 connected with the Tebhanga movement. There were 63 security prisoners when the Ministry assumed office on 24th April last year. They have all been released when the present Ministry assumed office in Apirl, 1946, 41 terrorist prisoners were confined in different jails of Bengal. Forty of them have since been released. As regards the remaining one, it has been decided not to release him. Another prisoner, namely Shamapada Khan, who was convicted in connection with the August Movement of 1942 —a convicted prisoner mind you—has been released on medical ground. The question of release of prisoners convicted of offences connected with the August Movement of 1942 and other political movements is however under the consideration of Government.

Sir, members on the other side of the House say that we have got some convicted prisoners. That is true. They are prisoners who have been convicted of offences against persons and offences against property, but those persons who were detained without trial have been released including the terrorist prisoners. I hope the House realises the difference. In other provinces they have released security prisoners no doubt but I repeat what I said last year that those prisoners belonged to the party in power and they released their own friends and even in another province a prisoner walked from the jail right into the Secretariat and sat on the Ministerial chair. So these Ministers released their friends and their relatives and their partymen and henchmen but this Muslim League Government released the political prisoners, they released even security prisoners though they did not belong to their party. They were broad-minded enough, they were liberal enough and they were generous enough to release these security prisoners, yet Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu made that statement.

Sir, there are only 10 minutes more at my disposal. The Chair has kindly granted 10 minutes and I shall skip over some minor point. I now come to Mr. Ahmed Kabir Chowdhury. A reference to Medical School was

made. As the House knows we have got schemes for the upgrading of Medical Schools into Medical Colleges. In accordance with the policy of the Government Dacca School has been raised to the status of a college, the Campbell School is about to be raised either this year or next year or the year after and other schools in other divisions are also going to be upgraded. But we cannot do it now for two reasons, because there is a school of thought which feels that there is a necessity for a cheaper type of medical education because if we have Licentiates they are available to the poor and this education being cheap is within the reach of everybody. The country is not yet so rich and the province cannot afford higher medical education. Therefore there is still necessity of some medical schools. Therefore Government are going to stagger their policy of upgrading, that is, schools will be upgraded in gradual stages.

Sir, I come to Dr. Pratap Chandra Guha Roy. He referred to the Islamia Hospital. He made a grievance of the fact that Government are giving so much money to this hospital which is meant for all without distinction of caste, creed or colour. There is no communal question. Its simple offence is that it bears the name Islamia Hospital. Only for this name there is vehement opposition to Government proposal to grant money. I may tell the House how much money was spent previously when no voice of protest was raised by any Muslim member when these grants were made by the Muslim League Ministry,—Chittaranjan Seva Sadan Rs. 2,50,000 after 1937, Carmichael Medical College Rs. 1,50,000, Jadavpur T. B. Hospital Rs. 3,05,000 and Sashi Bhusan De T. B. Sanatorium Rs. 3,80,000. Nobody protested when these institutions bearing Hindu names were given grants in excess of what is today proposed to be given to the Islamia Hospital. No member of this party protested against these grants for humanitarian purposes even though the institutions bore Hindu names and yet when Government propose to give to the humanitarian institution which bears a Muslim name not even that amount, objection comes from the other side. It is a very sorry state of affairs.

Sir, Mr. Mahammad Sayeed said that there is no substantial allotment for Education and Public Health. I shall give him the figures. It will take a long time to give him the yearly figures but I will give him the figures for 1947-48, which is Rs. 3,38,84,000 for Education *plus* Development expenditure Rs. 1,03,64,000, total Rs. 4,42,48,000 for Education, Rs. 3,95,14,000 for Medical and Rs. 1,64,71,000 for Public Health, and these allotments are far in excess of allotments made in any previous year, and therefore it will satisfy Mr. Sayeed that we have made increasing grants under these heads.

Now, I come to Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha. He said that last year's promises had been broken. True, Sir, we could not keep up to the promises made last year regarding Development programme. He said that in his youthful exuberance the Finance Minister made his statement and he has sobered down and this year there is not so much of exuberance. I admit last year I did not know that I was sitting on the top of a volcano and that the volcano was about to erupt and we were going to have so much trouble in this province. It is true that it was because of this unfortunate incident of August 16 to 19 that the whole governmental machinery was thrown out of gear and there was such a set-back that the Government could not keep up to the time table. It was for that reason, not because of want of interest, not because Government did not want development schemes to go through, but because Government was seriously handicapped and everything was thrown out of gear that Government could not keep to the time table. Money will be spent on schemes for which money has been allotted and members may rest assured that even though there has been delay, money has not lapsed money has not gone, the total allotment for development schemes will remain the same. Even though we could not spend it in 1946-47 we hope to spend it either in 1947-48 or in 1948-49.

Sir, Mr. Bankubehari Mandal complained that Government have allotted 10 lakhs of rupees for Muslim education whereas even though the Scheduled Castes are backward they have been given an equal sum of 10 lakhs and not more. Sir, I agree that it is the policy of the Muslim League Parliamentary Party and the Muslim League Organisation that due consideration should be given to the minorities; rather the majority should sacrifice their own interests in the interests of the minorities.

Sir, I want Mr. Bankubehari Mandal to realise that the total number of the Scheduled Castes in the province is one-fourth of the Muslim population. Their ratio is exactly 22;4 per 100 Muslims. Therefore by providing Rs. 10 lakhs for them when their population is only one-fourth of the Muslims we have given them four times the amount they could claim on the basis of their population as compared to Muslims. Mr. Bankubehari Mandal was at one time Parliamentary Secretary of the Muslim League Government and now instead of speaking of generous treatment he speaks in this way. (Laughter.)

Sir, Mr. Jogendra Nath Das referred to Noakhali and Tippera. He wanted to know what Government had done with regard to those two districts. I have got figures to show how much Government have spent in those two districts. Up to the 10th February Government have spent as follows in the district of Noakhali:—

Foodstuff—Rs. 9,07,172-7-9.
House building grants—Rs. 5,95,000.
House building loan—Rs. 1,00,000.
Utensil grant—Rs. 3,61,000.
Free grants to artisans and traders—Rs. 6,05,000.
Contingencies—Rs. 1,28,438-5-6.
Test Relief Works—Rs. 1,00,000.

The total amount spent in Noakhali is Rs. 27,96,610-13-3 and the total amount sanctioned for expenditure in the district of Noakhali is Rs. 35,00,000. In the district of Tippera the total amount sanctioned is Rs. 20,45,000 and the total amount spent is Rs. 3,67,435, up to 12th February, 1947. In Calcutta up to 10th February Government have spent Rs. 3,00,000 as grants for the relief of people. So Government have not been stingy in any way. They have spent liberally by making grants for the relief of distressed people.

Now, Sir, I have got only two minutes more. I want to refer to the points raised by Mr. Walker. He said that the presentation of a deficit budget is demoralising. That is true. Nobody can gainsay the fact that it is demoralising, but as I have said already we hope for a better financial arrangement between the provinces and the Centre. One of our officers has gone to Australia to study and examine the Australian system. I am told that the Australian system does better justice and is more equitable in the matter of financial arrangement between the Centre and the Provincial States. I hope that as soon as he returns we shall take up this question. At the present moment as injustice is being done to Bengal we cannot but ask for subventions from the Centre.

Sir, it is true that there is heavy expenditure under the heads "Extraordinary Charges", "Famine" and "Miscellaneous". As regards "Extraordinary Charges" as I have said already we are trying to retrench. We are examining the question and exploring all possible avenues for reduction of expenses under this head. The increase in expenditure under the head "Miscellaneous" was due to donations for charitable purposes Rs. 1,25,000;

Calcutta Disturbances Enquiry Commission Rs. 10,00,000; Expenditure in connection with the relief and rehabilitation of riot victims and refugees Rs. 54,00,000.

Mr. Walker should see the amount of co-operation that we have got from members of the other side. We are quite willing to set up a committee, provided we are assured that the members will voluntarily serve on that committee strictly on the basis of doing the best possible service to the country and co-operate with the Government and help Government in order to straighten out matters. On that basis we shall certainly have no objection to set up a committee. We shall welcome their co-operation. I have stated that in my budget statement.

So far as supplementary estimates are concerned, it is not possible to present supplementary budget estimates as soon as we incur expenditure, because in that case we shall have to present supplementary estimates more than once or twice. I promise Mr. Walker that we shall present our supplementary budget as early as possible after expenditure is incurred.

Sir, I am sorry I cannot deal with all the points raised. Before I resume my seat I would like to state, as I have said earlier, that we are on the threshold of a new constitutional era. This is the only opportunity that we have got in doing real good to the people and the province of Bengal. I have asked for co-operation from all sections of the House, so that we can build up a better Bengal for the people of this province. I hope that with so much opportunities and scope that we have got now we shall get that co-operation from all sections of the House, so that we can go ahead with all our programmes for the development of this province.

With these words, Sir, I thank you for the time you have allowed me.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 8-30 p.m. till 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 1st March, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

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